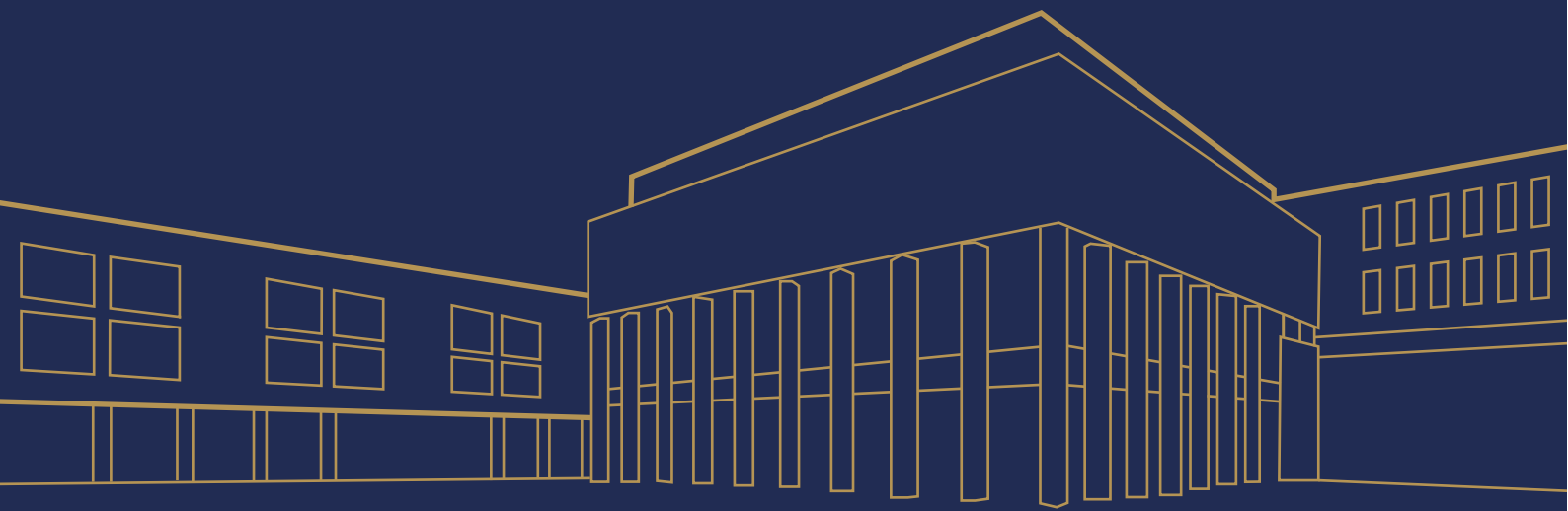




Annual Report 2022



ERA Annual Report 2022

In 2022, at the Academy of European Law we celebrated our 30th anniversary with an inspiring congress attended by 250 high-level representatives of the legal professions from across Europe, as well as initiatives such as our “30 Cases” podcast series.

Other highlights of the year were the first event of the EU Forum for the Legal Professions, the re-election of ERA in the bodies of the European Judicial Training Network, and of course our response to the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine.

Find out more about how we delivered on our mission to provide training and a forum for debate on European law to judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other legal professionals in this Annual Report of 2022.

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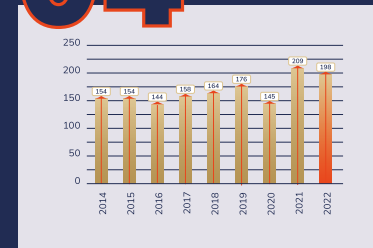
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PREFACE

Malu Dreyer

Minister-President of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, Seat of ERA

The Academy of European Law celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. We in Rhineland-Palatinate joined the celebration and are proud of this institution. An occasion worth celebrating! Congratulations!

Since March 1992, the Academy of European Law has been contributing in a very special way to European legal education. Based in Trier, it has the best conditions in the heart of Europe, near the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Not only does its location connect it with Rhineland-Palatinate, but also Rhineland-Palatinate's Minister of Justice, Mr. Peter Caesar, together with MEPs Horst Langes and Willi Rothley, who played a fundamental role in promoting its founding. Persistent efforts in the European Parliament in the early 1990s led to the creation of an institution that contributed to the acceptance of European law with regular training and discussion events. The Academy of European Law's inauguration took place on 8-9 November 1991 in Trier. The Academy's founding patrons, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, the City of Trier and the Association of the Friends of ERA, succeeded in acquiring additional sponsors. Over the years, the EU member states joined the foundation and thus the idea to create a common space for further education, discussion and exchange about the law.

Over the past 30 years, the Academy of European Law has established itself as an integral part of European legal education. The Academy's Director, Jean-Philippe Rageade, and the whole team deserve great thanks for this excellent achievement. Over the years, the Academy of European Law has traced new developments in European law and integrated them into its training programme. The Academy's four subject areas are evidence of the

breadth and depth with which European law is taught at the Academy. The Academy of European Law also commits to making its know-how accessible to a wider circle of interested parties, which is why it organises events and training courses in many other European cities beyond Trier.

The theme of the anniversary congress on 13-14 October 2022 was "European Sovereignty". Europe can only meet the diverse challenges in a rapidly changing world by recalling its strength, sovereignty and what it stands for. Europe is a community, founded on its values of human rights, freedom, democracy and the rule of law. These values constitute the framework and the core for economic prosperity and common development!

The rule of law to which we are committed in Europe creates binding force, reliability and protection for our actions. Judges, public prosecutors, lawyers or administrative officials exercise law. This requires not only profound competencies in national law but also in European law. The Academy of European Law is an indispensable partner in the education and training of the European dimension of law and its many manifestations in society.

Moving forward, the establishing objective of ERA remains equally prominent and more important than ever: remain the foundation and the benchmark in the further education of European law!

02

PREFACE

Jean-Claude Juncker*President of the ERA Governing Board*

30 years ago, when I was Finance Minister of Luxembourg, I discovered in my in-tray a project to start an Academy of European Law across the border in Trier. It was an unusual project, one that required us to invest in a venture not in my home country, but next-door. It was an example of cross-border cooperation, of a vision for a new Europe in which we all benefit by working together. I am proud of the role that I played in helping ERA to get on its feet then, and I was delighted to help celebrate ERA's 30th anniversary in 2022.

Last year marked another anniversary – ten years since the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the European Union. It was a controversial decision at the time, as the EU struggled with the consequences of the sovereign debt crisis. But the Nobel Peace Prize Committee wanted “to focus on what it sees as the EU's most important result: the successful struggle for peace and reconciliation and for democracy and human rights. The stabilizing part played by the EU has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace.”

In a year when one of our closest neighbours, Ukraine, saw its cities and infrastructure bombarded in an illegal and unwarranted aggression, Europe can sadly no longer be said to be a continent of peace. It is all the more important to remind ourselves of why it was that the European project was launched in the first place – and why we need to defend and promote it more vigorously than ever.

In my last State of the Union speech as President of the European Commission, I said: “The time for European sovereignty has come. It is time Europe developed “Weltpolitikfähigkeit” – the capacity to shape global affairs. Europe has to become a more sovereign actor on the world stage.” In 2022, the need for European sovereignty became crystal-clear to all – whether it be in terms of energy supplies, mutual defence, monetary policy, climate action or digital infrastructure.

It was auspicious, then, that ERA chose to dedicate its 30th anniversary congress to analysing the notion of European sovereignty from different perspectives – legal, political, economic, digital and constitutional. I would like to congratulate the organisers of this outstanding event and to thank the participants, who debated the benefits and the tensions of European sovereignty, as well as the challenges and the hurdles that must be overcome.

Europe has to become a more sovereign actor on the world stage.



In 2022, ERA continued its relentless efforts to ensure that Europe as a community of law becomes a reality. It welcomed the second largest number of legal practitioners in its history, opening its doors in particular to lawyers from Ukraine. Over half of its programmes were delivered with the option of online participation, enabling more legal professionals to take part. It launched the EU Forum of the Legal Professions, a unique space for cross-professional dialogue at European level.

And the value of its contribution was recognised as it was again re-elected to key positions in the European Judicial Training Network.

I would like to thank the whole ERA team for their hard work, ERA's partners and participants for their trust, and ERA's supporters in the EU institutions, Member States and legal professions for their investment in this special project. May the next 30 years for ERA be as successful as the last!

03

INTERVIEW WITH
THE DIRECTOR**01 // The big news in Europe in 2022 was the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Did this impact ERA's work and, if so, how did you react?**

Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 marked a real watershed in the recent history of Europe – and especially the European Union. This war, with its toll of deaths and displaced persons, has also greatly affected our team. In such a context, talking about the training of legal practitioners in Ukraine seems incongruous.

Nevertheless, training is our business and we responded to the situation by offering, less than a month after the outbreak of the war, the opportunity for Ukrainian lawyers to participate free of charge in our training programmes on key topics such as asylum law, migration law and human rights. These Ukrainian practitioners, many of whom had fled to EU countries, were also able to benefit from our Scholarship Programme – funded by the Friends of the ERA Association. In 2022, almost 70 Ukrainian lawyers attended our training activities. For 2023, we will renew our support and offer free online access to some seminars. We have also decided to extend our support to Moldova and Georgia.

The time will come – hopefully very soon – when ERA will be able to work in a more structured way for Ukraine against the background of its new status as an EU candidate country. Contacts with the justice stakeholders in Ukraine are underway.

Finally, on a completely different level, our participants and our staff were also impacted by other consequences of this war, such as the considerable increase in energy and other costs. To mitigate the effects of this galloping inflation, we are very grateful that the European Commission decided in December 2022 to increase the operating grant of ERA, as well as of the other five institutions explicitly mentioned in the Erasmus+ Regulation and supported under the Jean Monnet actions, by 10% for the year 2023. With this increased grant ERA will be able to undertake additional projects besides the ones already foreseen for the coming year.

02 // You made a number of visits to partner organisations in the Western Balkans in 2022. What does ERA have planned for this region?

Helping legal practitioners from the Western Balkans to prepare for future membership of the European Union is one of the pillars of our development strategy for the period 2021-2027. In recent years, our Academy has not been sufficiently present in this region. There are many reasons for this, but it was high time to initiate a change of course in our strategy. Having said that, we should not rush into anything. We must first understand and analyse what has already been done – and often done very well – by other European and national actors.

During 2022, I was indeed invited by the judicial training institutes of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. My participation in certain regional events also allowed me to establish contacts with key players in the Western Balkans and to explain our ambition for and to them. From these exchanges, I have learned that the situation in these countries is very disparate and that the training needs are therefore very different, and that certain professional groups, in particular private lawyers, have not been sufficiently at the centre of the concerns of the major donors up to now. These are already concrete avenues of reflection for ERA.

In 2023 we intend to organise a study visit bringing together high-level representatives of judicial training institutes and Bar associations from all Western Balkan countries. The main objective of this visit will be to engage in an in-depth discussion on

the needs and expectations for the training of legal professionals on EU law in the region, as well as to develop a comprehensive training strategy with them for the coming years – which should ideally complement the work done by other stakeholders in the region so far.

Ultimately, our goal is clear: that the countries of the Western Balkans join our foundation soon – even before they join the European Union – and can thus have a say in the development of ERA in the years to come.



Director of ERA
JEAN-PHILIPPE RAGEADE

03 // In June 2022, ERA was re-elected to the Steering Committee of the European Judicial Training Network and as Convenor of its Programmes Working Group. What is ERA's role in this network?

It is a great honour to have been re-elected to the Steering Committee. We see the number of votes received as a recognition of the performance of our Academy over the last few years and a confirmation of the trust that the national members have placed in us. We thank them most warmly for this and we will of course continue to support the European Judicial Training Network and its members with all our might in the years to come.

ERA's role is not limited to the Steering Committee, however, and we are therefore pleased to have been re-confirmed as Convenor of the Working Group on Programmes for a fifth term in a row. Viktor Vadász, our Director of Programmes, will be leading this group and I wish him all the best in this endeavour. The involvement of our team in the

activities of the other EJTN Working Groups and sub-groups will also remain unabated.

The 2022 General Assembly that took place in Paris was also marked by the election of the French Judge Ingrid Derveaux as Secretary General of the Network. As the first woman in this position, we wish her well and assure her of our support in carrying out her ambitious programme for the network. I would also like to pay tribute to her predecessor, Markus Brückner, to whom the Network owes a debt of gratitude for having initiated a necessary digital transformation in the midst of the pandemic storm – both with innovative ideas and unfailing commitment. I am sure his contribution will not be forgotten.

04 // ERA also helped launch the EU Forum for the Legal Professions at a conference in Brussels in December 2022. Who is involved in the Forum and what does it aim to achieve?

The EU Forum of the Legal Professions is indeed a new initiative which aims to provide a platform of exchange to and among the legal and judicial professions in Europe, where their common challenges and concerns can be addressed and analysed. Facilitated by ERA, it brings together the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ), the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), the European Association of Judges

(EAJ), the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ), ACA-Europe, the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the EU, the European Union of Judicial Officers (UEHJ) and the European Union of Rechtspfleger (EUR). Over 200 participants from all over Europe attended – online and in Brussels – the first conference of the EU Forum of the Legal Professions in December 2022, which was devoted to the “Attractiveness of the

legal professions”. Given the success of this launch, the stakeholders agreed on a second edition in 2023.

The EU Forum is in line with ERA's Development Strategy 2021-2027 to strengthen the relations with its traditional target groups, by offering – in this case – a different cooperation framework with the professions. In a way, this initiative broadens ERA's profile and mission – making it closer to a think tank than a training institute, since the EU Forum deals neither with EU law nor with training. We nevertheless see the EU Forum as an obvious complement to ERA's core business. Indeed we expect that new ideas will emerge from the Forum

for the benefit of ERA's training programme, considering the fact that the training needs of the professions are not only guided by the latest (EU) legislation and jurisprudence, but also by external considerations – be they political, technological, etc. – that are precisely at the heart of the EU Forum.

It is obviously far too early now to draw conclusions from this initiative, which will remain in the hands of the EU-level stakeholders, with ERA playing here only a facilitating role. The relevance and sustainability of the EU Forum will therefore be assessed over time.

05 // The highlight of the year for ERA was surely the celebration of your 30th anniversary. Tell us about how you marked the occasion.

1992 was the year of the creation of ERA. It was also an important moment in the history of European integration as it was the year of the signing of the founding treaty of the European Union, the Maastricht Treaty. Sovereignty was already a very controversial issue at the time, but recently it has become even more important. To mark our 30th anniversary, we therefore decided to organise a major congress dealing with sovereignty both of and within the Union. The event explored the legal challenges posed by new concepts that have found their way to the centre of public debate in recent years, including “budgetary sovereignty”, “strategic autonomy” and “digital sovereignty”. High-level experts from European and national legal practice and academia gathered in Trier on this occasion. We were very proud that they accepted our invitation. This anniversary event was an opportunity to honour and thank those who have accompanied and supported ERA over the years, and to see old friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Peter-Christian Müller-Graff of the University of Heidelberg for his invaluable scientific support in preparing this extraordinary programme.

I am also grateful to my colleague John Coughlan, Director of Communications, and his team, for overseeing the remarkable and touching film entitled “The Academy of European Law – How it all began...” in which the story of ERA is told to us by some of its iconic founding fathers, notably Horst Langes, Jacques Santer, Peter-Christian Müller-Graff, and Wolfgang Heusel.

Another project worth mentioning under the umbrella of the 30 years celebration is the special series of video podcasts about the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union featuring one landmark judgment or opinion for each year since ERA was established in 1992. This series entitled “30 Years – 30 Cases” is based on an original idea of Julia Laffranque, our former Director of Programmes.

Finally, in collaboration with the Kunsthalle Trier, ERA organised an art exhibition entitled THIRTIES. Six up-and-coming young artists, all around 30 years of age and all sharing a passion for contemporary art, had the opportunity to exhibit their work - paintings, installations, photography and videography - for over three months on the Academy's premises.



06 // After two years of pandemic-related restrictions, 2022 represented a return to normality in many respects. What does the “new normal” look like in terms of ERA’s programmes and how do you see it developing in future?

Our annual training programme – in terms of formats and methodology – has undergone deep changes over the last two years. At the peak of the pandemic in 2021, online-only training accounted for around 75% of our activity. This proportion fell to 37% by 2022 and nearly half of our training courses were offered again face-to-face. This does not mean, however, that our objective is to return essentially to face-to-face training. The hybrid format will play an increasing role in our annual programme. While the latter represented only 17% of our training in 2022, approximately one third of our training will be offered in hybrid format in 2023, with the other two thirds spread equally between face-to-face training and online-only training. In order to enable a high-level hybrid experience, we decided to invest heavily in an upgrade and digitalisation of our conference technology. We were able to complete the first phase of the work in December 2022. Further improvements are expected in the course of 2023. This massive investment last year, made possible by the surplus ERA had accumulated at the end of 2020, explains why our financial result for 2022 is unbalanced, despite an excellent year in terms of both number of events and participants, in fact the second highest in our history.

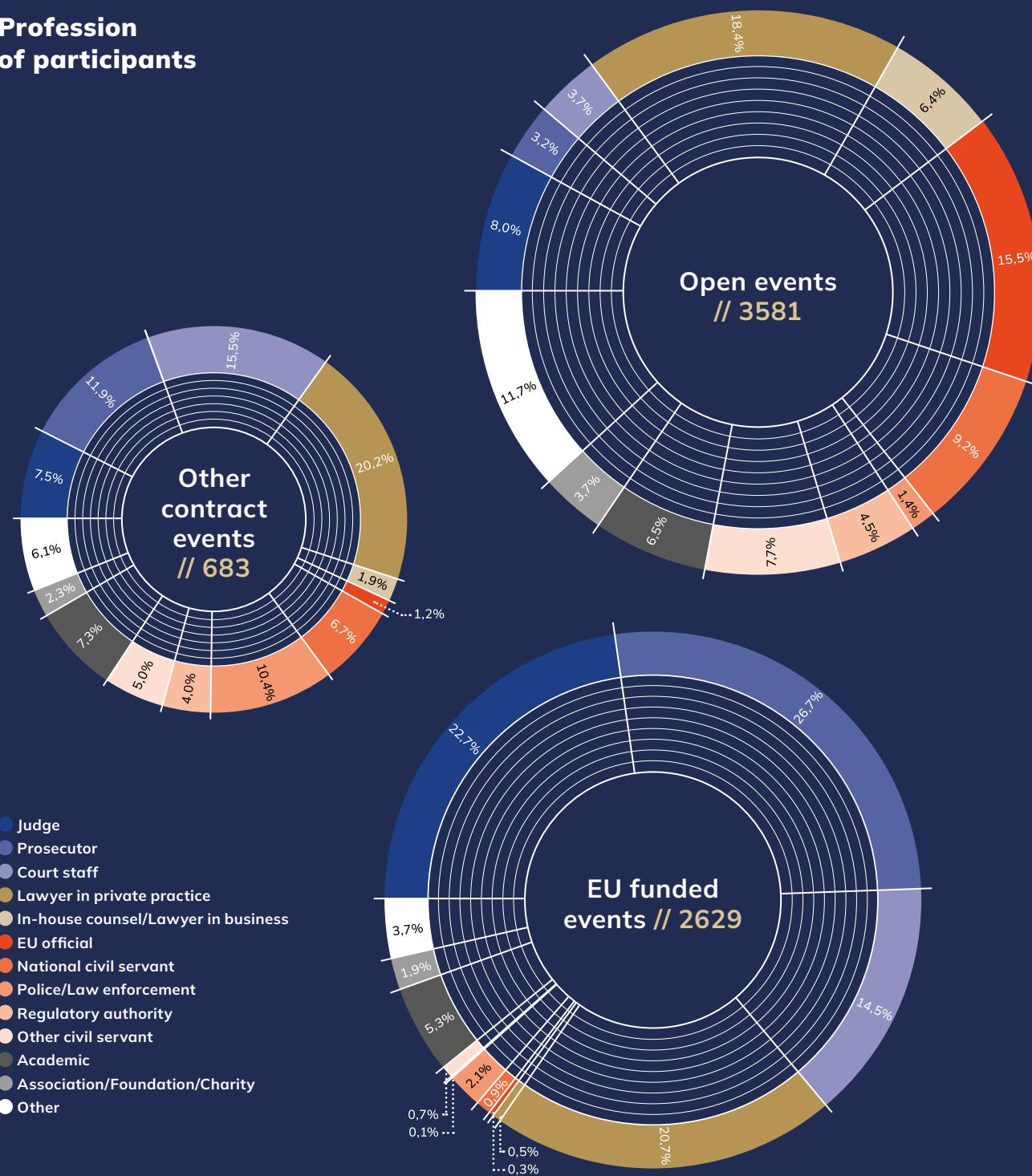
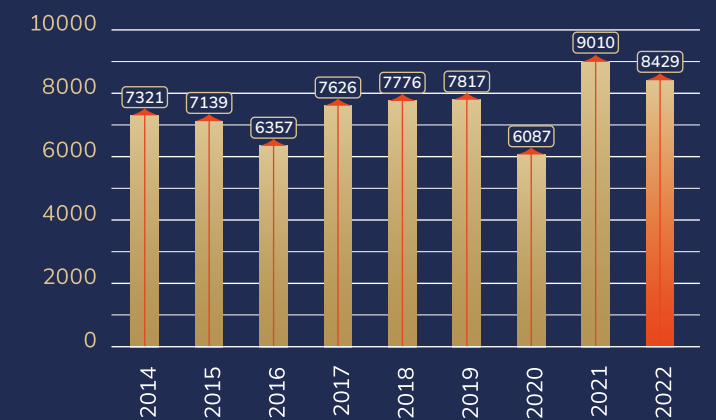
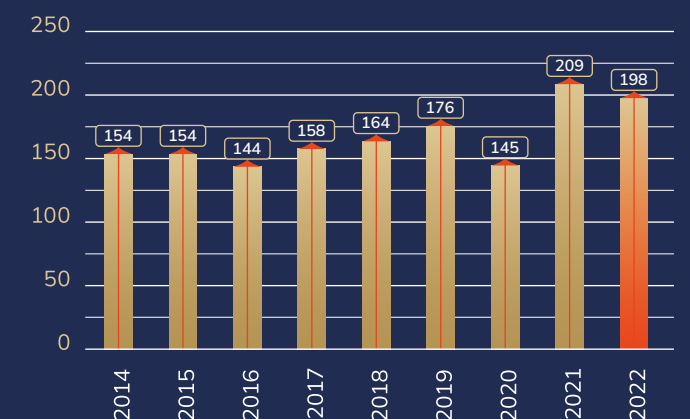
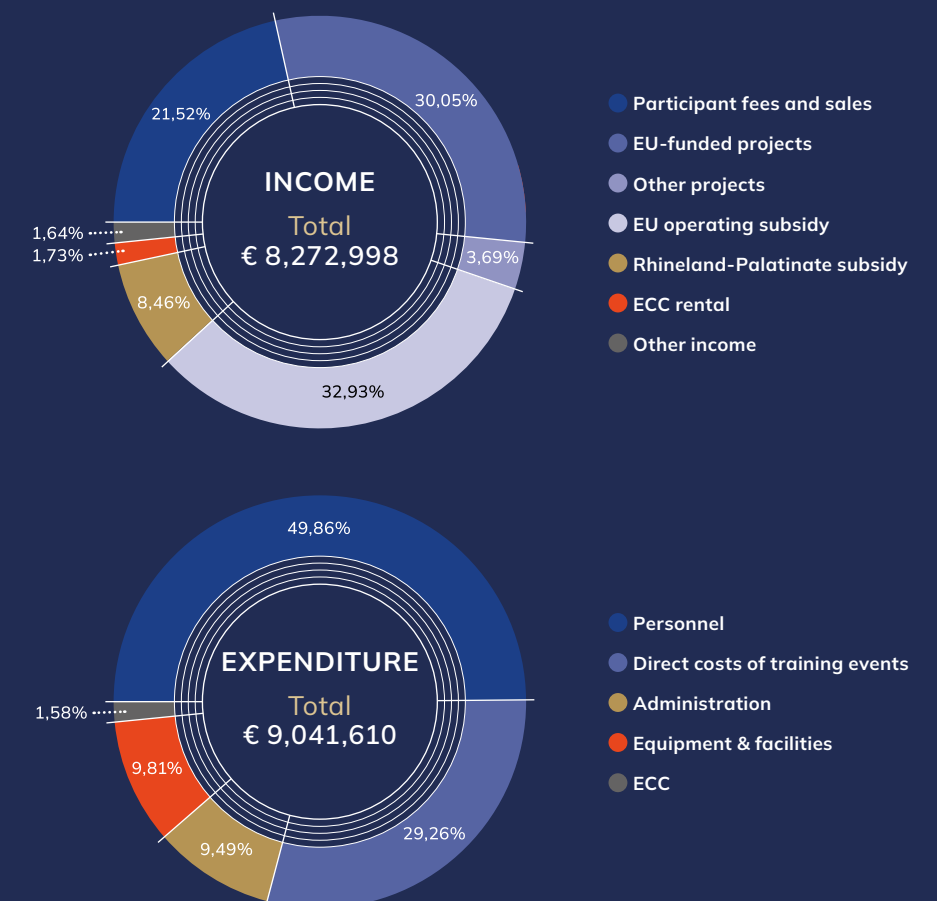
This move to an increasing possibility to attend ERA's events remotely allows us to reach a wider audience of practitioners, also with different profiles than those who knew us. Indeed, some practitioners do not have – or are not interested in – the possibility to travel to attend training events in Trier or in the rest of Europe. The reasons may be personal,

professional, financial or even environmental. To this end, last summer we conducted a survey among 600 participants to understand better their motivation and expectations regarding participation – or not – in remote training.

Also in terms of content, it is our task to accompany the irreversible process of digitalisation of European Union law – including of the instruments of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters – and of justice by providing legal practitioners with a renewed and relevant programme offer. Here again, I have full confidence in our team of lawyers to follow, even anticipate, these developments. In this task they can also benefit from the help of our Board of Trustees. Maintaining a training programme which is in line with the expectations and the evolving tasks of legal professionals is nothing new to us, although the pace of change today is exponential.

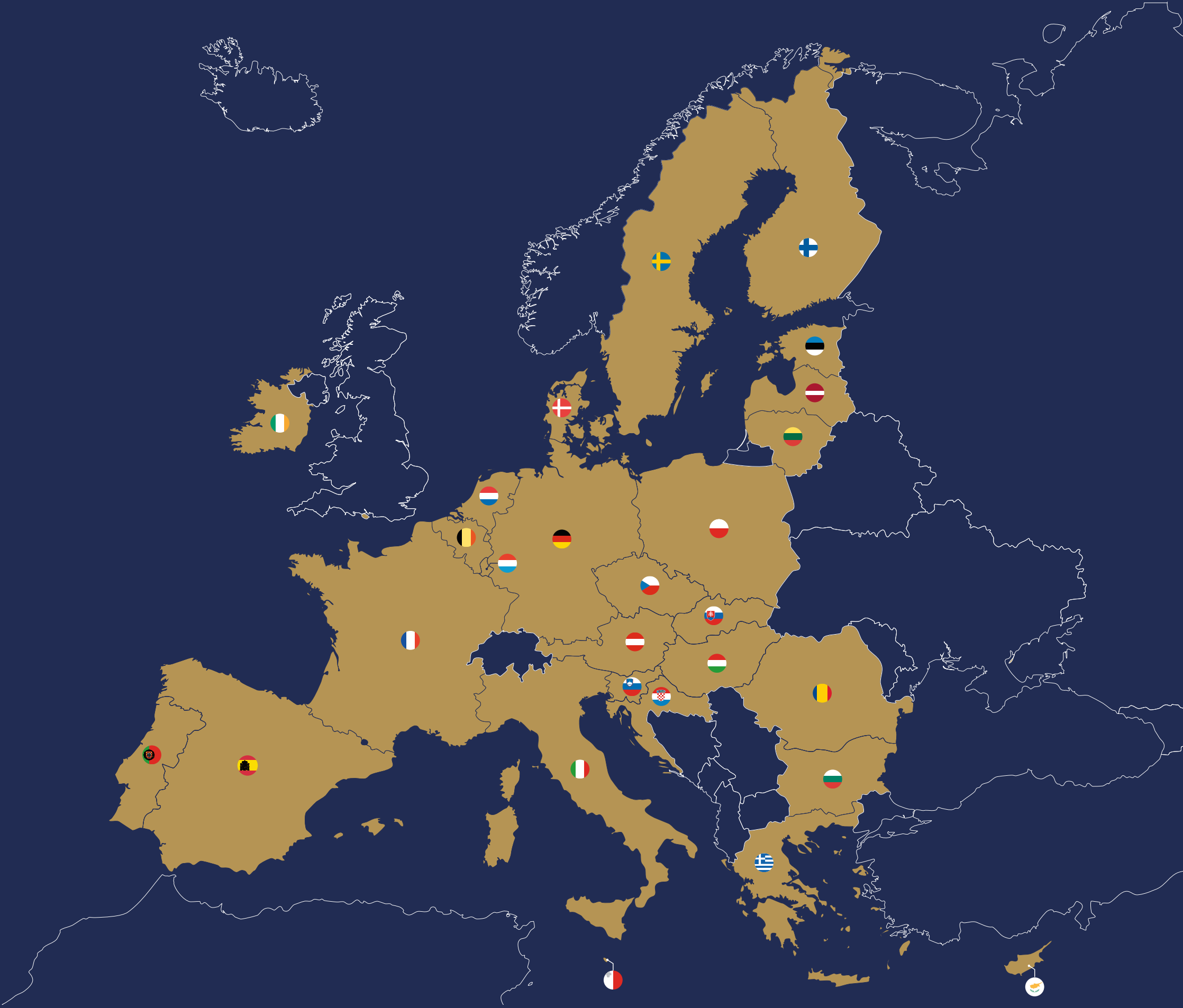
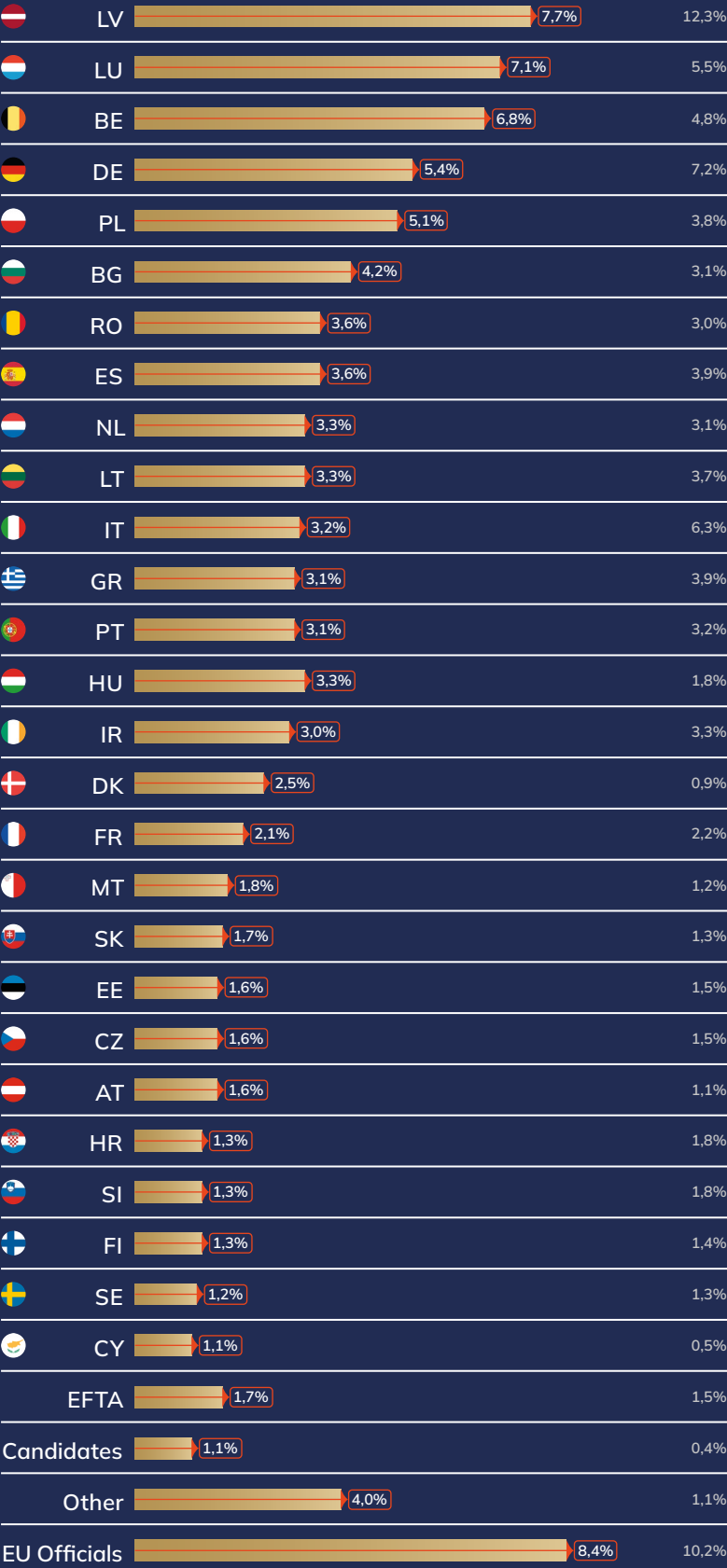
Finally, I should stress that, in order to carry out this (r)evolution of our programme, we are conducting profound changes internally too. Digitalisation is thus affecting the work of all our teams. Like most training institutes in Europe, we are reinventing ourselves, reorganising and acquiring new skills. This can create stress, frustration, sometimes fears. We need to take the time to explain the changes we are making, to accept that not everything will work immediately as hoped, and not to forget anyone along the way. I would thus like to end by paying tribute to all our teams for their remarkable work, their patience and their resilience in these challenging times. They can be proud of what we were able to achieve collectively once again in 2022.

04

ERA
IN NUMBERSProfession
of participantsNumber
of participantsNumber
of eventsOperating
income and
expenditure

Participants

2022 2021



05

30 YEARS OF ERA

30th Anniversary Congress

*European Sovereignty: The Legal Dimension –
A Union in Control of its own Destiny
Trier, 13-14 October 2022*

1992 – the year when ERA was established – was important in the history of European integration: it was the year of the signing of the founding treaty of the European Union in Maastricht. Sovereignty was a hot topic then, and has become even more so in the intervening three decades. To mark its 30th anniversary, ERA organised a congress entitled “European Sovereignty: The Legal Dimension – A Union in Control of its Own Destiny”. Legal experts, practitioners and politicians from various countries explored the challenges arising from new concepts that have moved to the centre of public debate, including budgetary sovereignty, strategic sovereignty and digital sovereignty. The congress attracted nearly 250 participants from 35 countries.



Visit our anniversary website:
era30.eu



Anu Bradford



Horst Langes



Jean-Claude Juncker (left) &

Christophe Hansen (middle)



Marc van der Woude



Irëna Kucina (left) & Koen Lenaerts (right)



Sabine Verheyen



Maciej Szpunar (middle) & Nathalie Smuha (right)



Bruno Dupré



Egils Levits



Vera Jourová



Jiří Zemánek (left),
Elena-Simina Tănăsescu (middle) & Andreas L. Paulus (right)



Daniel Sarmiento (left) &
Julia Laffranque (second from left)
Iris Goldner Lang (second from right) &
Ulla Neergaard



Peter-Christian Müller-Graff



CONFERENCES AND LEGAL POLICY DEBATES

A comprehensive programme of annual conferences

The challenge for ERA over the years has been to maintain diversity and breadth in its conference programme despite the ever-increasing number of areas in which EU law applies and the growing “Europeanisation” of domestic law. Updating, deepening, and adjusting the programme to match the growing training needs and expectations of legal practitioners has been a key element of our strategy, both during and after the pandemic. Evidence of these programme developments can be seen in the consistent range of annual conferences, where the main aim is to cover the most recent developments in a specific area of EU law, update the legal practitioners on the recent legislation and case law, and introduce policy debates that will shape the future formation of the legal field. In 2022, this successful formula covered, inter alia,

the Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Rights and annual conferences covering topics on border management, company law and corporate governance, competition law, consumer law, copyright law, countering terrorism, direct taxation, disability law, insurance law, financial regulation and supervision, immigration law, media law, patent law, pharmaceutical law, succession law, sustainable finance, trade and investment law, trade mark and design law, and VAT law.

These highly technical events are aimed at specialists who wish to keep up-to-date in the respective field and gather each year a large number of legal practitioners from all over Europe. This was the case in 2022 with the annual conferences on asylum law, criminal justice, environmental law,

family law, anti-money laundering and financial compliance, food law, pharmaceutical law, state aid law, and white-collar crimes, which all gathered more than 40 – some of them over 50 – delegates each.

The most well-attended annual events in 2022 were the Annual Conference on European Social Security Law, which was attended by 84 participants (33 attending in Trier and 51 joining online), the Annual Conference on European Data Protection Law with 35 face-to-face attendees in Brussels and 39 online, and the Annual Conference on EU Labour Law with 68 participants from 23 different countries (30

present in Trier and 38 joining online). For all of these events, ERA regularly welcomes judges from the Court of Justice of the EU or the European Court of Human Rights as speakers, as well as high-ranking EU officials. All in all, 1407 practitioners participated in the 32 annual conferences offered in 2022. Most of the annual conferences were implemented in a hybrid format; all together there were 21, while one was conceived in a face-to-face format and ten were available for an online audience only.

Events on specialised topics

In addition to its annual conferences, ERA offers ad hoc events on various specific topics. For example, one well-attended conference on digital contracts and data trading discussed the fundamental issues of data in private law and the requirements of the data economy. Who has access to data, and under what conditions can data be used? How should data as counter-performance be handled? Will the use of AI lead to a shift in the paradigm of contract law? Lawyers practising in the fields of online and onsite sales, e-commerce, and supply of digital content, as well as EU officials and representatives of consumer

and business organisations, debated whether EU private law is fit for the digital future.

More than 120 participants attended the online conference on recent developments in European civil procedure and debated the current topics in this field, namely key issues of the Brussels Ibis Regulation and proposals for its reform, cross-border aspects of climate change litigation, the new Regulations on e-justice communication via online data exchange, and the Commission proposals on digitalisation and cross-border judicial cooperation.





The online conference entitled 'Legal Developments in FinTech: Now and Beyond' explained the technology behind the FinTech revolution, including digital ledger technology and blockchain. It also dealt with the Markets in Cryptoassets Regulation ('MiCA'), which will introduce a harmonised framework regulating markets in cryptoassets, including so-called stable coins, in the EU. A fruitful discussion evolved during the roundtable on DLT and crypto-assets regulation at the national level. The comparative perspectives from Malta, Liechtenstein and France were much appreciated by the attendees. The conference provided participants with detailed knowledge on the Digital Operational Resilience Act and the DLT pilot project. Among the speakers, ERA was delighted to welcome senior representatives of the EU and national authorities, as well as partners from law firms.

The upcoming launch of the Unified Patent Court convinced ERA to revive its cooperation with Maastricht University to put in place a course for patent attorneys leading to the European Patent Litigation Certificate. The aim of this course is to develop professional training designed to meet the needs of patent attorneys wishing to appear before the new Court. This course puts in place a completely innovative training concept. Taking place over a period of nine months, the training has been conceived in the form of blended learning, mixing online and practical face-to-face sessions and ending

with an examination leading to the certificate. Within this timeframe, e-presentations and other online materials are provided to participants and discussed during a two-hour live online session conducted by tutors every two or three weeks. Online quizzes, peer review and other interactive teaching tools are used. The e-learning environment thus facilitates individual, collaborative and interactive learning, and offers a way for participants to test and track their own progress throughout the curriculum. The e-learning training is completed by on-site sessions conducted at ERA in Trier on core topics of patent litigation comprising interactive and practical exercises focusing on mock trials, role-playing, and advocacy. The first face-to-face session that took place in December 2022 included lectures on the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union within this new European patent law architecture, followed by a visit and a hearing at the CJEU, where patent attorneys were offered a first taste of patent litigation.

In 2022, ERA launched two brand new training programmes in the field of European criminal law, both implemented as hybrid seminars. The first, entitled 'Understanding Bitcoins and Cryptocurrencies Technologies – Mining, Blockchain and New Investigative Techniques', provided participants with an understanding of how bitcoin works, how transactions can be analysed, and the special investigative techniques that can be applied. During the sessions, participants were immersed in a simulated investigation and learned to analyse the blockchain to trace the proceeds of a crime. The second seminar 'Encryption in Criminal Investigations: Cracking the Nut and Options Available to Access the "Going Dark" Data', examined some concrete policy and legal options available to governments and law enforcement agencies to try to address the encryption concern. The use of encryption by criminals, and therefore its impact on criminal investigations, is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. This affects the ability of law enforcement and judicial authorities to obtain the information needed as evidence in criminal investigations and to prosecute and convict criminals. The public debate on encryption appears highly polarized, stuck between law enforcement

demands for something to be done and claims by others, particularly those in the technical community, that nothing can or should be done. The two seminars gathered altogether 94 participants face-to-face in Trier and online.

ERA has launched a new series of advanced seminars in European competition law in this year, each to be organised on a specific antitrust law topic, aimed at providing a thorough and in-depth overview of the relevant CJEU case law, the decisional practice of the European Commission, the latest developments and the main challenges for the interpretation and the application of the respective competition rules. In September 2022 ERA organised the first event of the series in Rome: a seminar on dawn raids, which was attended by 35 competition professionals from 15 different countries and by 26 students from the Master programme on Competition Law and Innovation at LUISS School of Law.

In May 2022, ERA organised a high-level conference on the occasion of the first anniversary of the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The conference took place at ERA's premises in Trier. Due to ERA's proximity to Luxembourg, the conference benefited from a solid participation of representatives of EPPO's central office, both as speakers and participants. The European Chief Prosecutor, Laura Kövesi, took time to join the conference and discuss the implementation and operation of EPPO with participants, which could not have been more valuable. Overall, the conference benefited from highly recognized speakers as well as a large expert audience and was, without doubt, an exceptional highlight.

Laura Kövesi took time to join the conference and discuss the implementation and operation of EPPO

In 2022, ERA organised an online seminar on 'Recent Case Law in the Area of the Rule of Law' to discuss the most important judgments of the Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights in this area. This seminar has been held regularly since 2019, and it attracts legal professionals who want to stay up-to-date with judicial developments concerning the rule of law. The programme, in addition to presentations on several court decisions, consists of an analysis of the European Commission's policy during the last 12 months.

Within the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe, ERA organised an online series of conferences and public debates in 2021 and 2022, concluding with an event entitled 'A plasticised future? How Can the EU Tackle the Plastic Problem in its Entirety?' The aim of this event was to enrich the public debate on plastics as a global problem. Although plastic is an important material in our daily lives, its life cycle causes various and severe harm to human health and nature, from raw material extraction through the use of chemicals and the overconsumption of plastics to poorly managed plastic waste world-wide. Europe is trying to change the scenario with legislation and policies such as the Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, the Single-Use Plastics Directive, and the Directive about reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. Awareness in society is also rising, with 74% of EU citizens expressing disquiet at the health impact of plastics and 87% saying they are concerned about their environmental effects.

As a follow-up to former conferences organised since 2018 on 'Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in the Digital Single Market', ERA organised a conference in 2022 aimed at updating legal practitioners on key EU legal instruments adopted in the framework of EU digital policy. This online conference, attended by more than 50 participants, offered an overview of recent legislative proposals like the proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act adopted in April 2021, completed in October 2022 by an AI liability package composed of a directive on AI liability and a directive revising the Product Liability Directive. Lawyers in private practice, national civil servants, in-house counsel, legal staff of international

organisations and NGOs attending this event were offered the possibility to exchange views with top experts from the European Parliament and the European Commission involved in the drafting of these instruments, and with representatives of CEN and CENELEC and the European Commission High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence. During a roundtable discussion, panellists from the robotics, automotive, banking and medical device industries shared their experiences and views on the use of AI in their sectors. The conference ended with presentations on emerging AI liability issues such as GDPR damages claims and AI systems.

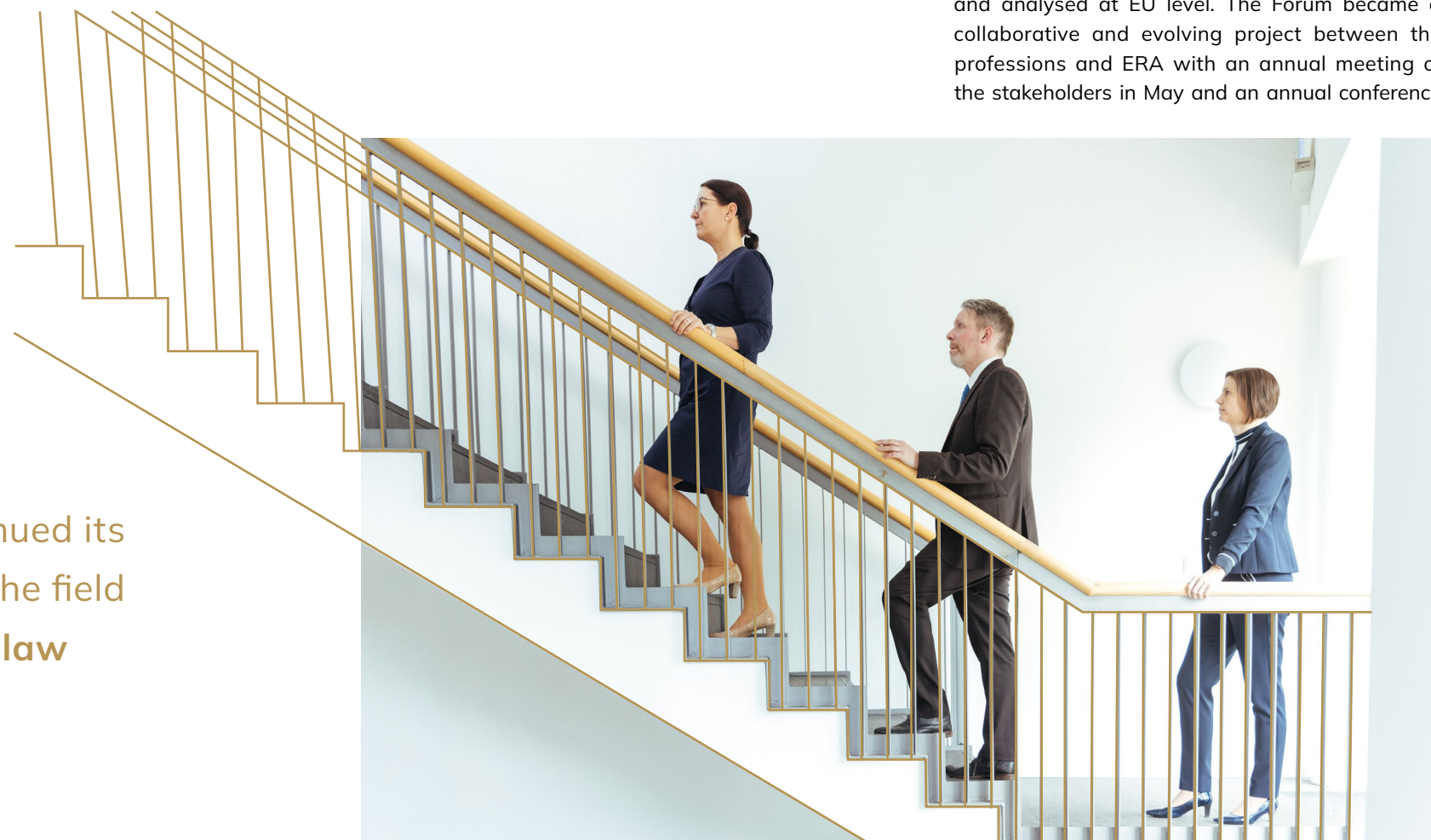
In 2022, ERA continued its important work in the field of data protection law, for example by offering over 27 data protection specialists and EU civil servants the necessary guidance on how to apply Regulation 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. The conference addressed the impact of data protection rules on new whistleblowing procedures in the EU institutions, the security of personal data in the EU institutions and the legal issues surrounding international data transfers to third countries and international organisations. In addition, ERA organised a seminar on recent ECtHR and CJEU case law in privacy and data protection, which focused on notable judgments delivered since 2021. The seminar gathered over 60 legal professionals from all over Europe.

The Association of EU Data Protection Judges (AEDPJ) was founded in 2021 with the support of ERA. In order to fulfil its supporting mission, ERA organised a webinar this year on data protection for the judiciary, where members of several EU judiciaries together with former Advocate General

Bobek discussed possible solutions and best practices in this regard. In the future ERA will support this forum, which enables an exchange of information and views in relation to data protection law and promotes the knowledge of data protection law among judges.

In the area of asylum and migration law, in April 2022 ERA organised a seminar on recent ECtHR case law in asylum matters. It was the first face-to-face seminar of this kind taking place in Strasbourg after the COVID-19 pandemic. It gathered more than 30 face-to-face participants. The programme was based on the latest ECtHR jurisprudence related to asylum and migration. For the introductory presentation, Judge Ledi Bianku presented the ECtHR approach in asylum cases from the perspective of international refugee law doctrines. The programme also focused on jurisprudence regarding (potential) violations of the European Convention on Human Rights (Art. 3, Art. 5, Art. 8, Art. 13 etc.) with relevance to asylum matters.

In 2022, ERA continued its important work in the field of data protection law



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 the 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.

In 2022, after some years of preparation, ERA created an EU Forum for the Legal Professions, which aims to launch a structured dialogue among the representations of the professions where common challenges and concerns could be addressed and analysed at EU level. The Forum became a collaborative and evolving project between the professions and ERA with an annual meeting of the stakeholders in May and an annual conference

in December. In this interprofessional platform of exchange, ERA plays the role of a facilitator, which it will continue to do in 2023. The first annual conference of the EU Forum for the Legal Professions was entitled "Maintaining the Attractiveness of the Legal Professions: How Can We Anticipate Future Trends". The conference was organised in a hybrid format and attracted a total of 220 participants. In his keynote speech, Mathias Kilian, professor at the University of Cologne, provided statistics and examples to illustrate the decreasing attractiveness of the legal professions. This presentation was live-streamed on ERA's LinkedIn page. The next sessions dealt with the possible causes of the decreasing attractiveness of the legal professions, including the negative trends affecting the image of justice, the difficulties accessing the professions and lack of mobility, as well as the diversity and gender imbalance. The conference ended with an open forum where the speakers and participants tried to draw conclusions on how we could make the judicial professions more attractive and turn the negative tendencies around. The conference was organised in Brussels with a limited number of face-to-face participants and free-of-charge online attendance.

To mark its 30th anniversary, ERA organised a congress on 13-14 October in Trier entitled "European Sovereignty: The Legal Dimension – A Union in Control of its Own Destiny". 1992 – the year when ERA was established – was important in the history of European integration: it was the year of the signing of the founding treaty of the European Union, the Maastricht Treaty. Sovereignty was already a highly controversial topic in those days, and since then it has become of even more critical relevance. ERA invited speakers (academics, judges and politicians) from various countries to explore the legal challenges arising from new concepts that have moved to the centre of public debate in recent years, including budgetary sovereignty, strategic sovereignty and digital sovereignty. The conference was organised in a hybrid format, and a few sessions were live-streamed on ERA's LinkedIn page. The congress attracted 241 participants from 35 countries.

07

PRACTICAL TRAINING
AND WORKSHOPS**Summer courses – Training opportunities for young professionals**

In terms of practical training, ERA has considerably intensified its programme over recent years in order to meet better the needs of practitioners. In the first instance, this concerns a series of intensive one-week 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 immediately to put into practice the knowledge they acquire.

In 2022, after offering mostly morning and afternoon five-day online courses for two years in a row, ERA came back to the face-to-face format by offering eleven five-day and one three-day courses. The

summer courses on financial regulation and supervision, criminal justice, environmental law and trade law were offered in a purely online format and attracted nearly 130 participants. This year the most popular face-to-face summer course was on public procurement law, which attracted 39 participants, and altogether with the other face-to-face participants – on consumer law, data protection law, family law, insolvency law, IT law, intellectual property law, labour law, social security law, EU staff regulations, and tax law – ERA gathered more than 210 participants. In 2022, nearly 400 practitioners from all EU and EFTA Member States, most Western Balkan States, and other parts of the world participated in these courses.



Organised since 2018, the aim of the Young European Lawyers Contest is to bring together newly qualified lawyers from European countries to highlight the importance of European law for their future legal practice and to put their legal skills to the test in a dynamic environment. In the framework of the EU Justice Programme 2021-2024, ERA has received new funding from the European Commission to organise larger-scale contests composed of semi-finals in different cities and a final in Trier and Luxembourg. Individual applications are possible, but most participants are selected by the partners of this project, composed of 20 bars and law schools, including CCBE.

Initially, among more than 100 applications, 48 participants from 15 countries were chosen and divided into mixed-nationality teams

The 2022 contest was supported by top-level lawyers and judges from the General Court of the European Union who served as jurors, sharing their expertise and specialisation with the young lawyers. Initially, among more than 100 applications, 48 participants from 15 countries were chosen and divided into mixed-nationality teams. The three preliminary semi-finals took place in Warsaw, Bratislava and Barcelona in spring 2022. The best two teams from each semi-final were invited to the final at the Academy's headquarters in Trier in October 2022. After a training on EU litigation, the finalists performed a negotiation exercise and prepared for the moot court that took place at the General Court in Luxembourg. As the final took place during the same week as the congress celebrating ERA's 30 years, participants were offered the possibility to prolong their stay and attend the congress, during which a tribute was paid to the two best teams of the contest.



Large-scale training projects designed for judges and court staff

Among the most prominent examples of such projects in the ERA programme are the two long-running training programmes on “EU Anti-discrimination Law” and “EU Gender Equality Law”. These projects, bringing together some 600 judges, legal practitioners and academics from all EU Member States each year, have been implemented on behalf of and in cooperation with the European Commission under the “Rights, Equality, and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020”. In 2019, ERA was awarded two new, four-year service contracts, allowing it to continue its activities in this area. Twelve seminars were implemented in 2022, eight of which were held outside of Trier. In so doing, ERA was honoured to cooperate with national judicial schools (the Portuguese Centre for Judicial Studies; the Supreme Court and the Office of the Prosecutor General of Estonia; the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy; and the Hungarian National Office for the Judiciary) and national bar associations (the Latvian Bar Association, the National Association of Romanian Bars, the Barcelona Bar Association and the Paris Bar). In order to make the information provided at the seminars available to an even wider audience, an extensive online documentation (including PowerPoint presentations, e-learning courses, e-presentations, etc.) of the two series can be accessed for free on special ERA subsites. This documentation was extended and updated extensively in 2022. Since the beginning of ERA's cooperation with the European Commission in the framework of two series, the first of which has run since 2003, ERA has contributed to the training of over 9,500 legal professionals in the field of EU equality law.

After a duration of five years, in 2022 ERA completed its cooperation agreement with the Latvian Court Administration, signed in January 2018. In total, 61 events were organised, of which 33 were held online. Within the whole cooperation, 2777 participants were trained. A broad range of EU law topics, such as company law, competition, insolvency, public procurement, state aid, IP law, financial crime investigation, e-evidence, fundamental rights, civil and criminal justice cooperation and data protection, were covered. During the second half of 2022, a series of online language training events was organised where legal English training was combined with pure legal training on given topics. Participant evaluations throughout the whole project received only top marks.

In December 2022, ERA finalised the implementation of its major service contract on competition law, which the European Commission's DG Competition awarded in May 2018. Within the framework of the project, ERA organised altogether 25 training events, providing the national judiciary with an overview of the application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU and the relevant secondary legislation, as well as the national legislation transposing the Damages Directive and the necessary tools to deal with State aid cases. This project – which was supported by the judicial training institutes from 23 Member States, the Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ) and the EJTN – must be seen in the context of ERA's long-standing commitment to the training of the judiciary on competition law since the entry into force of Regulation 1/2003. Within the framework of this project, since its start in 2018, ERA trained a total of 639 judges from 25 EU Member States, 120 of whom were trained in 2022 alone.

ERA has contributed to the training of over **9,500 legal professionals** in the field of **EU equality law**



In 2022, ERA and EJTN concluded a pilot training project aimed at tackling gaps in training on EU law for court staff.

In 2021, ERA was awarded – for the third time in a row – a 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. For this project, ERA received the support of judicial training institutes, supreme administrative courts and judges' associations from nineteen jurisdictions (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain), 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). In 2022, ERA implemented the following events in the framework of these specific contracts: a webinar on Air Quality Law in English, attended by 32 participants from 15 Member States; webinars implemented in German, French, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Czech/Slovak and Polish; a webinar based on the training module on EU Water Legislation in English and Italian. Further webinars on Water Legislation were prepared to be implemented in other languages in 2023. In 2022, ERA also won the call for a 5th Specific Contract and will develop a training module and implement a training event in Poland on "Access to Justice for Polish Judges".

In 2022, ERA and EJTN concluded a pilot training project aimed at tackling gaps in training on EU law for court staff. This project was supported by 22 national bodies responsible for court staff training in eighteen EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain). The project that began in December 2018 adopted a practical methodological approach and proceeded with the development of training materials that will aid legal practitioners in actively applying the EU acquis in civil justice before advancing with the organisation of the seminar series. A series of twenty 1.5-day legal seminars



on specific aspects of cross-border civil litigation was successfully implemented and concluded in the spring of 2022. 503 court staff members benefited from the organisation of legal seminars in their country and national language, as well as from the implementation of two pan-European legal seminars that were held in Brussels, the last one in March 2022. In parallel to the organisation of these purely legal seminars, a series of thirteen legal English training events was implemented, combining both legal and language training in English. The last legal English seminar was held in February 2022 in Vienna. 281 court staff received legal and language training in English. The project succeeded in training, altogether, 784 court staff in the specific area of cross-border civil litigation. The COVID-19 pandemic caused various disruptions. With the postponement of numerous training activities, the conversion of several seminars into online-only events, and the offer of an additional pan-European legal seminar, a smooth continuation of the project was ensured, which contributed to reaching many court staff in the EU.



In autumn 2022, ERA implemented the last events of its legal and language training project for court staff in the field of European criminal law. During the project's lifetime from 2019 to 2022, a standardised training package on European criminal law was developed in 10 languages for the provision of legal training as well as a linguistic manual on legal terminology in English for the provision of practical language training. A series of nine national legal seminars as well as a pan-European legal conference were organised online and face-to-face all over the EU. Furthermore, a series of five three-day legal English events was organised. Altogether, 380 members of court staff benefited from training in the specific area of European criminal law.

In 2022, ERA, the Italian High School for the Magistracy (SSM) and the Dutch Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary (SSR), with the support of EJTN and the judicial training institutes from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Spain, started the second edition of an advanced training project for court coordinators in European law. The

project focuses on areas with particular relevance for these senior judges with advanced knowledge of EU law, namely the application of EU law, the preliminary ruling procedure and fundamental rights (including the rule of law). Within the project, it is planned to train 235 court coordinators (judges) in European law and – an innovation compared to the first edition of the project – 30 judicial trainers from any Member State. They will receive advanced practical training and enhance their knowledge and competence in the application of EU law. Moreover, as they act as multipliers in their jurisdictions, they will be able to pass on the knowledge acquired. Another aim of this project is to provide a platform for the exchange of information, knowledge and best practice; create close contacts among court coordinators from the Member States that have active networks; and encourage other judiciaries to create such a network. In 2022 there were two courses organised within this project: one in Barcelona and one in Trier. The training in Trier offered a visit to the Court of Justice with participation at a hearing.

Advanced cross-professional training projects

The project entitled “Mediation in the EU: Language, Law and Practice” aims to spread knowledge about cross-border mediation, encourage its use among judges, lawyers and mediators, and develop their legal and professional English language skills. With the support of ten national judicial training institutions (from Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Spain), six bar associations (from the Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Spain), and three EU-wide mediation and judicial networks (EJTN, GEMME, MiKK), a series of nine language training activities on cross-border mediation throughout Europe from November 2021 to April 2023 is being organised. The project offers a two-fold dimension to training: participants will receive both language training at the intermediate level and practice-oriented mediation training. The training events were attended by judges, lawyers and mediators from various Member States, offering cross-professional training and ensuring the exchange of experiences, advice and mediation best practices. Each event dealt with either civil and commercial mediation or family mediation. In 2022, five seminars were held in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Spain, and were attended by 115 judges, lawyers and mediators from various EU countries. Three more events are planned in the first half of 2023.

In 2022, ERA implemented three seminars under the framework of the European co-financed project entitled “Obtaining electronic evidence when investigating and prosecuting crimes” in Thessaloniki, Cracow and Vilnius. These practice-oriented seminars aim to promote advanced knowledge, the exchange of experience and best practices among judges, prosecutors and lawyers in private practice from EU Member States who are dealing with electronic evidence and online investigations. This improved participants' knowledge of the strategies and techniques used in different European countries and ultimately improved cross-border cooperation among the authorities of Member States.

In October 2022, ERA implemented the first event of another large-scale project sponsored by the European Commission entitled “Preparing criminal justice professionals to address new (post-) pandemic challenges as a result of criminals' new modi operandi”. It consists of seven seminars to take place in Bucharest, Dublin, Lisbon, Cracow, Barcelona, Thessaloniki and Tallinn over the period 2022-2024. The seminar in Bucharest addressed various challenges that judges, prosecutors and lawyers in private practice working in the field of EU criminal justice will have to face in the years ahead. Some of these challenges (videoconferencing, wide use of open-source intelligence, digital technology, etc.) are there to stay in the “new normal”.

In 2022, ERA implemented the final seminar under the framework of the co-financed project entitled “Detention and Mutual Legal Assistance – Enhancing Cross-border Mutual Legal Assistance and Recognition of Decisions within the Context of Detention”. The event, which was the only one out of five that could be implemented face-to-face due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was held in Bucharest in English and Romanian with simultaneous interpretation. The general objective of the project was to debate and assess how European legislation, standards and forms of cooperation are applied in the field of detention in the EU Member States, as well as to look at the matters from a perspective that encourages better cooperation between Member States, so as to ensure that the highest possible standards are maintained and mutual trust and recognition are enhanced. Judges, prosecutors, prison and probation officers and lawyers in private practice from EU Member States, Albania and Montenegro were able to participate. The Bucharest seminar focused on alternatives to detention, also within the context of the European Arrest Warrant. Best practices in relation to alternatives to detention were discussed, as were viable alternatives, including probationary measures, electronic monitoring and restorative justice.

In 2022, ERA implemented the first four events of a large-scale project co-financed by the European Commission, entitled “Countering Trafficking in Human Beings (THB): Practice-Oriented Training on Measures to Enhance Investigations and Prosecutions, Disrupt the Financial Business Model, and Intensify Preventive Measures”. The first seminar analysed the scope and nature of the problem of impunity when investigating and prosecuting THB. Best practices were shared on how to counteract impunity, including by enhancing national and cross-border law enforcement and judicial cooperation, as well as cooperation with NGOs and civil society in identifying perpetrators and victims of THB. The second seminar covered the topic of financial investigations of THB and focused on disrupting the financial business model of THB, following the money, and untangling the business chain. A closer look was taken at police and judicial cooperation in THB financial investigations and confiscating assets, including red-flag indicators in various areas, such as money service businesses. Moreover, levels of cooperation between these actors and financial service providers and FIUs were also examined, as was the enhancement of victim compensation. The third seminar analysed the scope of the problem of demand for THB and how it can be countered with prevention initiatives on demand reduction. Clamping down on new and emerging tools being used by traffickers, in particular in the cyber domain, was examined. The work of various EU Member States and (international) organisations attempting to reduce demand was looked at from both a judicial and a law enforcement perspective, as well as the work done by NGOs in awareness-raising.

In 2022, ERA and its 17 partners implemented the second and last year of the project “Working with the EPPO at decentralised level: training materials and legal seminars for prosecutors, investigating judges, and defence lawyers”. The project started in April 2020 with the development of training materials for national prosecutors, investigating judges, and defence practitioners. Furthermore, a pan-European conference was held (see above) for EPPO’s first anniversary and attended by 70 judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers.

On the same subject, ERA together with EJTN implemented 14 online training events for the European Public Prosecutor’s Office under the framework contract for services JUST.EPPO/LUX/2020/OP/0001 in 2022. The webinars, which were offered exclusively to European Delegated Prosecutors and staff of the EPPO, covered issues related to financial investigations, EU funding, forensic accounting and the use of analytical tools in the context of EPPO cases.



In 2022, ERA continued its important work in the field of data protection law

Tailor-made training courses



Besides its cooperation with national bars, ERA works frequently with associations or networks of individual lawyers or law firms. In 2022, it organised its tenth annual joint seminar in Brussels with the European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA). A long-standing cooperation also exists with the Norwegian Centre for Continuing Legal Education (Juristenes Utdanningssenter, JUS), founded by the Norwegian Bar Association and the Norwegian Association of Lawyers, with whom ERA organised one training event in 2022 in Brussels devoted to EEA/EU labour law for a group of 40 Norwegian labour lawyers. ERA also cooperated in 2022 with the Association of Danish Labour Law Attorneys (AnsættelsesAdvokater) for a seminar in Brussels on EU labour law addressed to some 70 Danish lawyers.

As a continuation of its partnership with the Global Electronic Council that started in 2019, ERA organised three online training events in 2022 on sustainability and EU public procurement law at the request of this organisation. The events were aimed at providing an introduction to European public procurement law and how it can be leveraged to achieve sustainability objectives. They were attended by a total of 127 procurement professionals (representatives of contracting authorities and the private sector) from EU and non-EU countries.

In December 2022, ERA organised a tailor-made online training on EU public procurement law for EIT Manufacturing (one of the nine innovation communities belonging to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology). The main objective of the training was to provide a thorough introduction to European public procurement law, with a focus on Directive 2014/24/EU. It was attended by four employees of the Financial and Legal Departments of the organisation.

In September 2022, ERA designed and implemented an intensive workshop on EU environmental law for the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA). The programme covered a range of the main EU environmental law topics – in particular environmental impact assessment procedures, air quality legislation and industrial emissions; participatory rights in environmental and climate change matters; EU waste and chemical legislation; and EU water law and policy – and provided the ESA staff with legal tools to deal with environmental cases. 14 ESA staff members participated in the training.



DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING MATERIALS

In addition to implementing training programmes itself, ERA continues to develop standard training materials and other resources that can be reused by national training actors.

Case studies on EU (civil and criminal) justice instruments for court staff

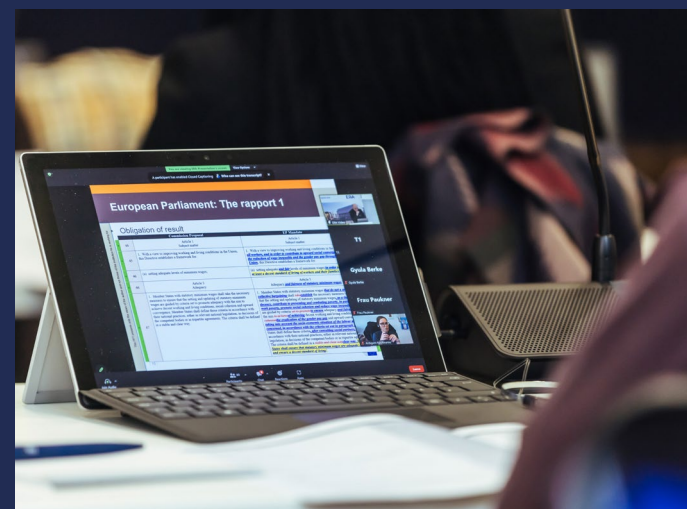
In 2018, ERA and EJTN were awarded an EU grant for a joint project aimed at tackling gaps in training on EU law for court staff. The project adopts a practical methodological approach and proceeds with the development of training materials that will aid legal practitioners in actively applying the EU acquis in the area of civil justice and that will also be reusable in future training activities. Concretely, this project focuses on European cross-border civil procedures and covers six legal instruments with practical relevance for court staff's work. For all

instruments, practical case studies were developed by renowned EU law experts in the first quarter of 2019. Each case study includes the case scenario, the suggested solution, and some methodological advice for using the case. To allow for the provision of language training, a manual on legal terminology in English covering the same instruments was also drafted by a linguistic expert.

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

In the framework contract with the European Commission's DG Environment, ERA has created a series of training materials aimed at the judiciary since 2013. The comprehensive, standard-setting training materials promote interrogative and participatory learning methods and are easily reusable. The entire training packages are accessible online 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 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. In 2022, ERA designed two new training modules, respectively on "EU Water Legislation" and on "Waste Law and Combating Waste Crime". Concerning the module on "EU Water Legislation", the materials were developed in two different formats and a total of six languages. The first format encompasses only European law, while the second encompasses both European and national law and was tailor-made for two countries in their respective languages (Spanish and Polish). Concerning the module on "Waste Law and Combating Waste Crime", the material was developed to encompass only European law, and three events will take place in 2023. This training material encompasses both European and national law and was tailor-made for two countries in the respective languages. It will be developed in 2023, along with the implementation of the workshops in Greece and Romania.



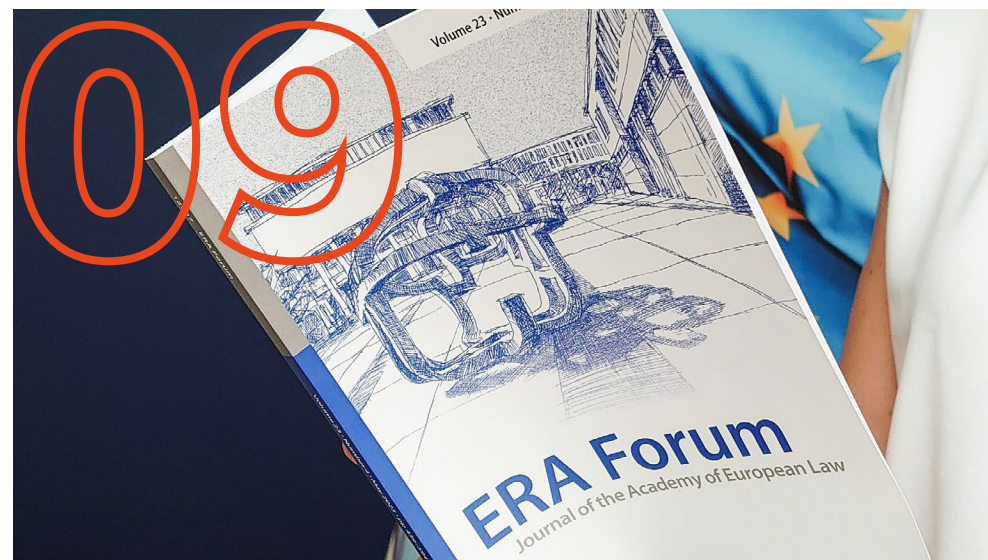
Standardised training package on the EPPO

In 2022, an e-learning course on the European Public Prosecutor's Office targeted at prosecutors and investigating judges was made publicly available, and an online guide on EPPO proceedings for EU defence lawyers was published in English, French and German.

Countering Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)

As part of the large-scale project co-financed by the European Commission entitled "Countering Trafficking in Human Beings (THB): Practice-Oriented Training on Measures to Enhance Investigations and Prosecutions, Disrupt the Financial Business Model, and Intensify Preventive Measures", ERA is producing nine e-learning modules. These are focused around the three main topics of the project: countering impunity, financial investigations and demand reduction, with three e-learning modules being produced per topic. They are accessible to all participants in the six seminars in the project, as well as the wider public. In 2022, the first three e-learning modules were completed in relation to countering impunity and its various elements: 'An Introduction to Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), its Concepts and Definitions and the EU's Response to Counter it'; 'An Introduction to Obtaining and Transferring E-Evidence and Forensic Tools in European Investigation Orders (EIOs) when Assisting THB Investigations'; and 'Protecting Victims During THB Judicial Proceedings: The Non-Punishment Principle and Victim-Centered Approaches to Investigations and Prosecutions'.





ERA FORUM

Journal of the Academy of European Law

ERA publishes a quarterly legal journal – ERA Forum – in cooperation with Springer (Berlin/Heidelberg) composed of articles based on the most outstanding presentations delivered at ERA’s conferences. The strong demand for the journal observed in recent years was maintained in 2022, with 164,656 articles downloaded in the course of the year, only slightly down on the record number registered in 2021.

While it is natural for the readership to grow as the back catalogue of ERA Forum provides an ever greater pool of articles to read, this is not enough to explain the fact that the number of article downloads quintupled in the space of five years. This huge increase can largely be put down to agreements between Springer and authors’ institutions – often universities – that enable numerous articles to be made available for free as part of an “Open Access” arrangement. This has significantly widened the potential readership of the journal beyond its core subscriber base.

Among the articles published in 2022 that are free to download thanks to “Open Access” were several on the hot topic of “Artificial Intelligence”, in particular in conjunction with other topics such as “Cybercrime”

(Cristos Velasco), “Gender equality” (Fabian Lütz) and “Law enforcement” (Martyna Kusak). Other “Open Access” articles available for free included “The Holship ruling of the ECtHR and the protection of fundamental rights in Europe” by Hans Petter Graver, “Data protection rules applicable to Financial Intelligence Units: still no clarity in sight” by Teresa Quintel, “Legal gender recognition in times of change at the European Court of Human Rights” by Lena Holzer, “Self-produced images, sexting, coercion and children’s rights” by Ethel Quayle, “The EU Succession Certificate” by Sjef van Erp and Katja Zimmermann and “Towards socially responsible public procurement” by Roberto Caranta.

The authors included leading practitioners from the judiciary, private practice and public administration as well as top academics from across Europe. Some of the most downloaded articles were written by ERA’s own lawyers.

The number of article downloads **quintupled** in the space of five years

YEAR	2014	2015	2016
ARTICLE DOWNLOADS	25,154	33,070	33,740

YEAR	2017	2018	2019
ARTICLE DOWNLOADS	38,782	51,737	79,117

YEAR	2020	2021	2022
ARTICLE DOWNLOADS	137,477	189,529	164,656

Artificial Intelligence
 Succession Law EPPO Regulation
 Criminal Justice **Equal Marriage Rights**
 Patent Law **TOPICS COVERED IN 2022** Labour Law
 Gender Equality Data Protection
 Digital Evidence Public Procurement
 Cybercrime

10

E-LEARNING

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, ERA has become a full-scale provider of distance-learning in the form of online seminars and hybrid conferences. It had already developed considerable experience in previous years in producing e-learning programmes and digital resources designed to leave a durable legacy from its live programmes. This output continued in 2022. A complete overview is available at www.era.int/elearning.

e-Presentations

e-Presentations – film recordings of speakers at ERA events combined with embedded background documentation and a self-assessment quiz – provide one way to prolong the life of ERA's live programmes in different online formats. In 2022, 49 new e-presentations dealing with specific and current issues of European law were produced, bringing the total catalogue to 679.

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 was viewed 47,800 times in 2022, an increase of 37% compared to the previous year.

To mark its 30th anniversary year, ERA also produced a series of free video podcasts entitled "30 Years – 30 Cases" focusing on 30 landmark

judgments and opinions of the Court of Justice of the European Union. The series can be viewed at era30.eu/30-years-30-cases/.

ERA produced a further 104 e-presentations and 16 audio podcasts in the context of EU-funded projects on competition law, environmental law, detention conditions, trafficking in human beings (THB), anti-discrimination law and gender equality, procedural rights, as well as training programmes for court coordinators. In addition to English, the e-presentations on competition law were produced in Greek, on detention conditions in Romanian, on environmental law in Bulgarian, Czech/Slovak, French, German, Hungarian and Polish, and on trafficking in human beings (THB) in German, Greek and Portuguese.



e-Courses

In 2022, ERA published four new basic e-learning courses on criminal law, institutional law, data protection law and intellectual property law, which are now available for free on the ERA website.

ERA developed an interactive online tool on proceedings involving the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The tool was inspired by the practical workshops and training manuals implemented in a project co-funded by the European Union's Justice Programme.

With co-funding from the EU's Internal Security Fund – Police Programme, the first two modules of another e-learning course on "An introduction to trafficking in human beings (THB), its concepts and definitions and the EU's response to counter it" were also produced in 2022.

ERA also produced French and German versions of a new e-learning course entitled "Introduction to Gender Equality Law" for a project funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.

In the framework of a project funded by the European Commission's DG Environment on "EU Environmental Law for National Judges", new blended and stand-alone e-learning courses were

developed on "EU Air Quality Law and the Right to Clean Air – Focus on Access to Justice" (in Bulgarian, Czech/Slovak, English, French, German, Hungarian and Polish), as well as a new blended course on "EU Water Legislation" (in English and Italian). These are publicly available both on the websites of both ERA and DG Environment.

In addition to the distance-learning resources available on its own website, ERA also regularly develops tailor-made e-learning solutions for the EU institutions and other clients. In 2022, ERA produced new e-courses for the contracted interpreters of the European Parliament on "An Introduction to the EU's Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Framework" (in English and French) and "The Rule of Law in the European Union: Legal Framework and Case-Law" (in English and Spanish) in the framework of a service contract with its DG Personnel.

The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed the landscape of professional training in EU law – as well as many other sectors. Thanks to its investment in e-learning in previous years, ERA is well-placed to respond to the rising demand for online training solutions in future.

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SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMME

For over 20 years ERA has provided scholarships each year to enable legal practitioners who would otherwise be unable to afford to attend ERA's programmes to obtain free access to training in EU law through a programme funded entirely by private donations.

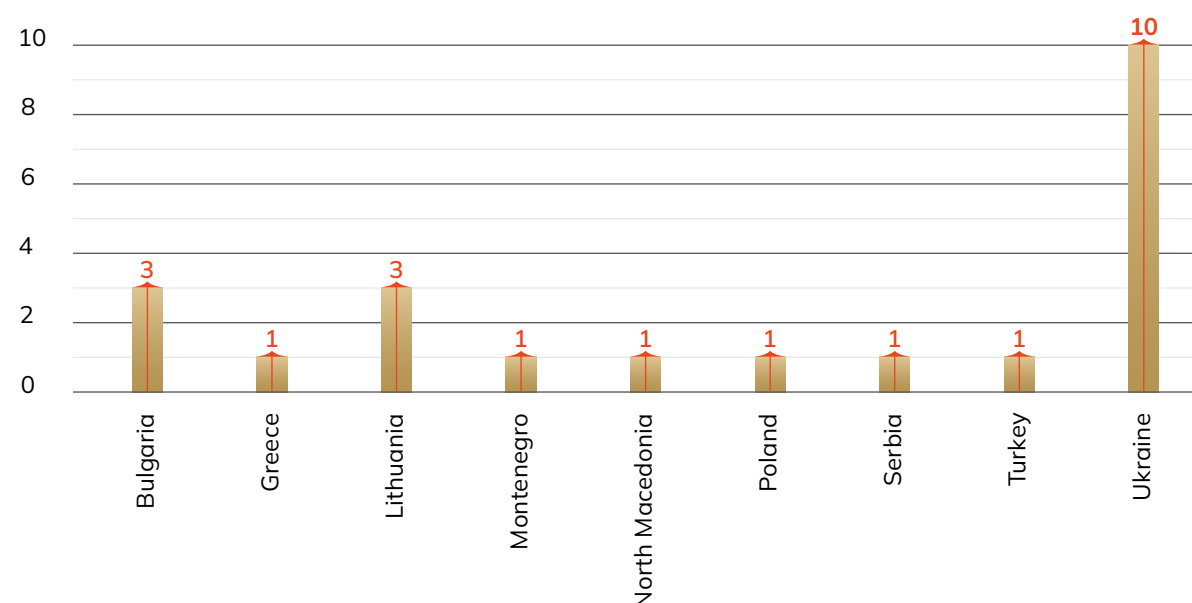
Ongoing travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic led to fewer scholarships being applied for and awarded in recent years, with most scholars only able to make use of a scholarship to participate in one of ERA's online training events. As face-to-face training again becomes more common, especially for intensive training programmes such as ERA's summer courses, it is important to ensure that all practitioners continue to have the opportunity to participate in high-quality training in European law.

ERA received a total of 48 scholarship applications from 15 different countries in 2022. Following a careful selection process, the Academy awarded a total of 22 scholarships to legal practitioners from

nine countries, including ten jurists from Ukraine. The other candidates who were granted financial assistance were from Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Turkey.

The grants awarded amounted to a total of €26,608, with the average value of each scholarship being roughly €1,200. This is more than in previous years, reflecting the need to cover travel and accommodation costs at face-to-face events, whereas during the pandemic primarily online attendance was funded.

The Academy awarded
a total of **22 scholarships**
to legal practitioners from
9 countries.



ERA would like to express its sincere thanks to the donors who made the scholarship programme possible in 2022:

FRIENDS OF ERA ASSOCIATION

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MARION GUERRERO

HEINZ WEIL

EFTHYM ANTONOPOULOS

NINA NIEJAHR

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DAMIR KAHVEDZIC

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ANDRIS ALEKSEJEVS

CLAUDIA ANGERMAIER

PETER VAJDA

CHRISTOPHER STOTHERS

SIMON GERDEMANN



VIKTORIA YOVYK
In-house counsel, Kyiv, Ukraine

Summer Course on European Antitrust Law
Trier, 4-8 July 2022

Where are you from?

I am a Ukrainian in-house counsel. I work for a state-owned enterprise that conducts electronic auctions to dispose of seized property.

How do you use European law in your work?

My work allows me to use European competition law from two different perspectives. The most frequent one is for the interpretation of Ukrainian law. Our competition law is being adapted to European law, and to better understand the new national legislation, I use established EU practices. Also, for some purposes, I turn to the practice of the European Court of Justice and use documents that the European Commission and its Directorate General for Competition produce.

The use of the European practice is very helpful for me as a Ukrainian lawyer because we do not have much practical experience in this area, especially in using harmonized regulations as they are relatively new. I analyse and use arguments that were used by the European Court of Justice to make my position stronger. Ukrainian judges also use European practices, and it is useful to be able to work with the European Court of Justice and the Directorate General for Competition documents.

What did you think of the summer course?

This course was great, including content, speakers, materials, the social programme, and the level of organisation. Thank you to the entire ERA team.

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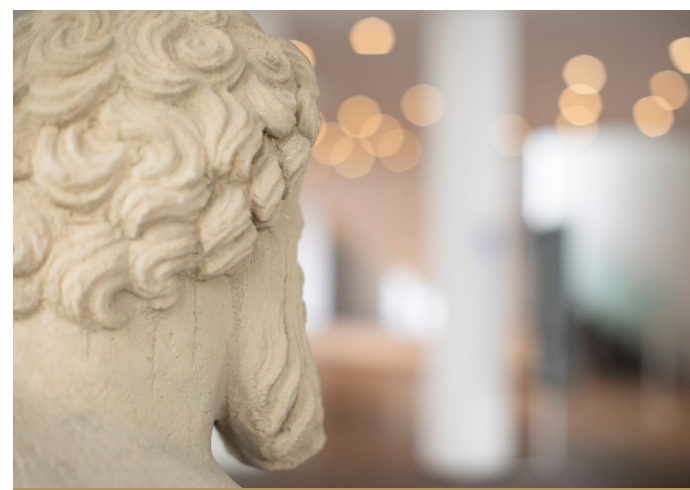
ECC – FACILITIES & CONFERENCE SERVICES

In addition to ERA's own educational activities, external events are also regularly hosted on its premises. This commercial activity is marketed under the ERA Conference Centre (ECC). The events are usually trade fairs, congresses, conferences and seminars, receptions, as well as other types of events. The ECC has had a special relationship with the neighbouring hotel Vienna House Easy by Wyndham Trier since its establishment. The hotel also organises events for their clients at the ECC.

Event highlights in the ERA Conference Centre

Despite more or less recovering from the effects of the COVID pandemic on the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions und Events) market, the ECC lacked sufficient human resources to sell and implement activities in the second part of 2023. This resulted in being able to organise no more than the already scheduled conferences. New requests unfortunately had to be declined. With events organised by local and regional authorities, professional associations and private companies, a good mix of different kinds of events could nevertheless be maintained.

Some particular events deserve to be highlighted. BES Practice organised their third Belgian-Dutch-German training programme providing a "hitchhikers' guide to cross-border judicial cooperation". The aim of



the two events was to intensify judicial cross-border cooperation in criminal matters through training. In a different field, the 14th Trier Anaesthesia Congress provided a dialogue that goes beyond the boundaries of departments and professional groups, which is becoming increasingly important in the rapidly changing framework.

ECC Revenue

Overall the ECC must look back on 2022 as a disappointing year. From summer 2022, only very limited resources were available to acquire and implement ECC activities.

REVENUE COMPOSITION	
1. Space rental	33.6%
2. Catering/Beverages	31.9%
3. Commission	14.3%
4. Parking	9.5%
5. Other	10.7%

Rent, beverages and food services are the primary sources of operating revenue for the ERA Conference Centre. Accounting for 65% of the total revenue in 2022, the percentage of both sources compared to the total income remained almost equal to the previous year. Not surprisingly, after two 'COVID years', a clear increase is to be noted for revenue from hotel room commissions.

Sustainable service

The performance profile of the ECC and its partners is, from the start of the event until its implementation, extensive and all-encompassing. It goes without saying that our know-how and experience is placed at the disposal of our clients. Although 2022 was not a great year for ECC activities, ERA remains confident that the ECC will be successful in the near future. In an increasingly demanding service culture, the ECC will continue to strengthen customer loyalty. In this context our hospitality and cooperativeness remain among the most important factors.



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THE
TEAM

The ERA staff is composed
of **74** staff from **17** countries.

DIRECTOR

PROGRAMMES



JEAN-PHILIPPE RAGEADE
Director of the Academy



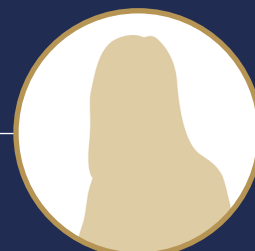
MIRIAM SCHRAMER
Assistant to Mr Rageade



JUTTA RASMUS
Head of Human Resources



ALEXANDRA KNIPPEL-PROBST
Human Resources Assistant



SUSANNE LUDWIG
Human Resources Assistant



KARIN WENZEL
Human Resources Assistant



SABINE WEINAND
Head Librarian



JULIA BOLLIG
Assistant Librarian



VIKTOR VADÁSZ
Director of Programmes



NATALIA BOXBERG
Assistant to Mr Vadász

European
Private Law

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and Senior Lawyer*



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*Course Director
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NATAŠA VUJINOVIĆ
Course Director



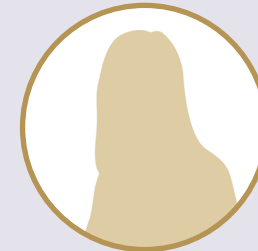
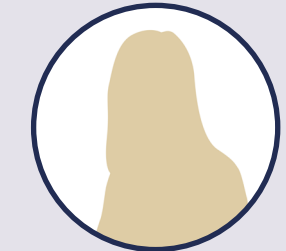
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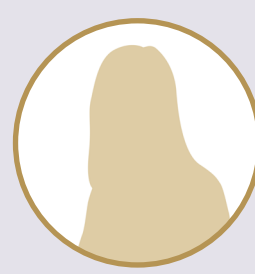
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MONIKA HAMMERLE
Assistant



ANNA LEES
Key Account Officer



JANINE NOTTER
PR & Social Media Officer

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 **21**
Male Employees

Nationalities of ERA's employees by sector



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PROGRAMMES



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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(at 31 December 2022)

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Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)

Association of European Data Protection Judges (AEDPJ)

Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ)

Confederation of European Probation (CEP)

Council of Europe

Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)

Court of Justice of the European Union

Eurojuris International

European Association of Judges for Mediation (GEMME)

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European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA)

European Disability Forum (EDF)

European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA)

European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ)

European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

European Law Institute (ELI)

European Law Students' Association (ELSA)

European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA)

European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE)

European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris)

European Parliament

European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)

European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)

European Young Bar Association (EYBA)

Europol Data Protection Experts Network (EDEN)

Fair Trials

Institute of European Media Law (EMR)

La Strada International

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Philea - Philanthropy Europe Association Disability Thematic Network

Western Union



National level

Austria – Association of Austrian Administrative Judges
Austria – Federal Ministry of Justice
Austria – LEFÖ - Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women and Girls
Austria – The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM)
Austria – Austrian Bar Association (ÖRAK)
Belgium – Brussels Bar (Dutch language section)
Belgium – Judicial Training Institute (IGO-IFJ)
Belgium – Delegation of the French Bars in Brussels (DBF)
Bulgaria – National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings
Bulgaria – National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
Bulgaria – Foundation European School of Enforcement (ESE)
Croatia – Judicial Academy
Croatia – Croatian Bar Association
Cyprus – Cyprus Judicial Training School of the Supreme Court
Cyprus – Cyprus Bar Association
Czech Republic – Judicial Academy
Czech Republic – Czech Bar Association
Czech Republic – Office for the Protection of Competition (UOHS)
Denmark – Ansættelsesadvokater (Danish Association of Employment Lawyers)

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Estonia – Estonian Prosecutor's Office
Estonia – Supreme Court
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France – National School for Clerks (ENG)
France – National School for the Judiciary (ENM)
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France – Haute École des avocats conseils
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Germany – Federal Ministry of Justice
Germany – German Bar Association Committee for Labour Law
Germany – German Bar Association Committee for International Business Law
Germany – Judicial Academy of North Rhine-Westphalia
Germany – Ministry of Justice of Baden-Württemberg

Germany – Ministry of Justice of Hesse
Germany – Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia
Germany – Ministry of Justice of Rhineland-Palatinate
Germany – International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction (MiKK)
Greece – Bar Association of Thessaloniki (BATH)
Greece – Hellenic National School of Judiciary (ESDI)
Hungary – National Competition Authority (GVH)
Hungary – National Office of the Judiciary (NOJ)
Hungary – Association of Woman Lawyers
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Ireland – The Irish Attorney General
Ireland – Judicial Studies Committee
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Italy – High School for the Magistracy (SSM)
Italy – The Police
Italy – Council of State
Italy – LUISS School of Law
Italy – Italian Bar Association (CNF)
Latvia – Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates
Latvia – Judicial Training Centre (LTMC)
Latvia – National Courts Administration
Lithuania – Lithuanian Bar Association





Lithuania – National Courts Administration

Lithuania – Prosecutor General's Office

Luxembourg – Luxembourg Bar Association

Luxembourg – Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF)

Luxembourg – German Bar Association in Luxembourg

Malta – Judicial Studies Committee (JSC)

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Netherlands – Maastricht University

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Poland – National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (KSSiP)

Poland – Polish Bar Foundation

Poland – National Bar of Attorneys at Law (KIRP)

Poland – Supreme Administrative Court

Poland – Warsaw Bar Association

Portugal – Centre for Judicial Studies (CEJ)

Portugal – Immigration and Borders Service (SEF)

Portugal – Ministry of Justice, Directorate General for the Administration of Justice (DGAJ)

Portugal – National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings

Portugal – Portuguese Bar Association (OA)

Romania – Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT)

Romania – Bucharest Bar Association

Romania – National Agency Against Trafficking in Human Beings (ANITP)

Romania – National Institute of Magistracy (NIM)

Romania – National School of Clerks

Romania – National Association of Romanian Bars (UNBR)

Serbia – Judicial Academy of Serbia (PARS)

Slovak Republic – Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic

Slovakia – Slovak Bar Association

Slovenia – Judicial Training Centre, Ministry of Justice

Spain – Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB)

Spain – Centre for Legal Studies (CEJ), Ministry of Justice

Spain – General Council of the Spanish Bar

Spain – Judicial School of the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ)

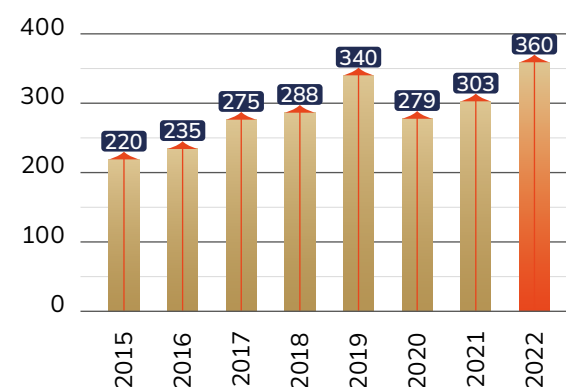
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FRIENDS OF ERA

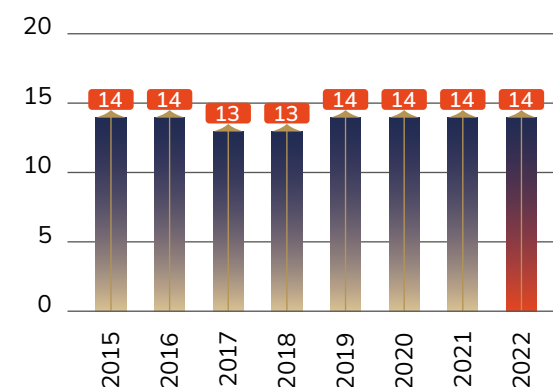
The Friends of ERA Association was established even before ERA itself, first to promote the idea of an Academy of European Law and then to support its activities. It is a non-profit association made up of some 360 individual and 14 institutional members from across Europe, all of whom share a commitment to the development and good practice of European law.

The number of individual members rebounded in 2022, following a slight decline during the pandemic period, while the number of institutional members remained unchanged.

Individual members



Institutional members



Local events were organised by the Association's Chapters in several European countries:

UK Chapter

First meeting of UK Chapter
with guest speaker Catherine Barnard
Online event, 16 March 2022

Spanish Chapter

Networking dinner
Barcelona, 12 June 2022

Luxembourg Chapter

Private guided tour of the remains of
the court of Count Siegfried I and dinner
Echternach, 14 June 2022
Guided visit of the National Library of
Luxembourg (BnL) and dinner
Luxembourg, 8 Dec 2022



Surveys of members were conducted in seven countries, the results of which will be used as a tool to implement new events or launch new national chapters.

The main focus of the Association's support is the ERA Scholarship Programme, to which it contributed €26,608 in 2022. More details can be read in the separate report.

The bronze sculpture "Philosophers in Dialogue" by Giovanni de Angelis was installed in ERA's courtyard in July 2022. The art project was made possible by private donations (€12,000) and the generous support of the Association (€8,000).

The Friends also sponsored the prizes, worth a total of €3000, for the two best teams of the Young European Lawyers Contest, which is organised annually by ERA and its partner Bars from around Europe. The winners were honoured by the Chair of the Friends of ERA Association, Jettie van Caenegem, during a ceremony at the General Court of the EU in Luxembourg in October.

On the occasion of the ERA 30th Anniversary Congress in October 2022, the Friends of ERA contributed in several ways:

- "ERA – how it all began...": The documentary film focuses on the testimony of key people who contributed to the establishment of the Academy 30 years ago. Its production was facilitated by the generous support of the Association.
- The Friends of ERA Lecture: Professor Christine Landfried addressed the different dimensions of sovereignty in the European Union. The lecture can be viewed on ERA's YouTube channel.
- The Association sponsored the participation of special guests from Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

Finally, a new promotional video for the Friends of ERA was produced and can be viewed on the Friends' website and during regular ERA events.



Find out more:
www.friends-of-era.eu

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Publisher

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Concept & Design

Pioniere & Wegweiser GmbH
Posthof am Kornmarkt
Fleischstr. 59 | 54290 Trier
www.pioniere-wegweiser.de

Printing Press

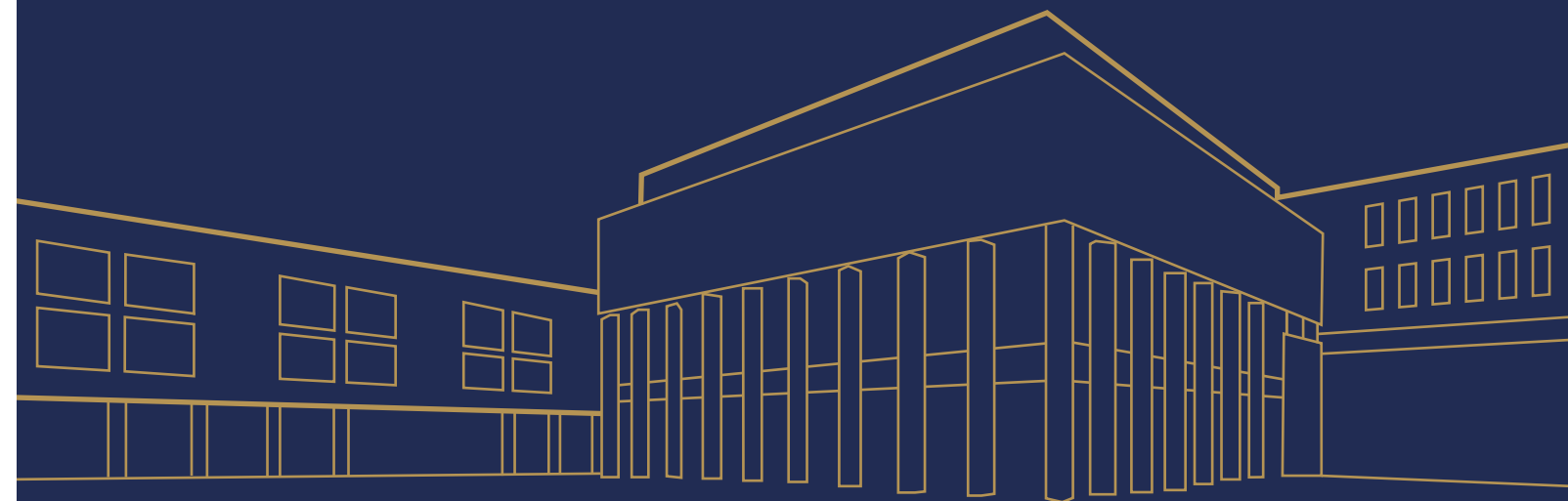
Druckerei Schaub
www.druckerei-schaubs.de

Photos

ERA, Dominique Gaul

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The Academy of European Law is funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

