



ELI

EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

2020

Activity Report



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Message from ELI President and Vices

2020 was a remarkable year in many respects. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought sorrow to Europe and greatly affected many of our Members and Friends, but 2020 marked also a year of significant progress.

When we embarked upon the journey, the challenges of the last year were not yet foreseeable. Just like so many of you, ELI had to navigate through particularly rough waters this past year and had to adapt its mode of operation to a pandemic-struck world. Despite these unprecedented circumstances, ELI made significant progress and did not sit idle. In the first half of the year, ELI finalised multiple projects, publicised its Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis, and organised a series of webinars. In the second half of the year, ELI held a successful Online Annual Conference with record numbers of attendees and commenced two new projects. Looking back, we stand in awe of the resilience and hard work of our Members and supporters who made 2020, despite its challenges, a success.

Profound gratitude is due to everyone who keeps the ELI running: Members in ELI bodies, Project Team Members, Members Consultative Committee Members, Hubs and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and the ELI Secretariat. All the countless hours spent on building a close-knit legal community and shaping the European landscape of the future do not go unnoticed. We want to thank you for your trust, cooperation, and enthusiasm over this past year and the years to come.

With that, we invite you to browse through our Activity Report to gain insight into our activities and achievements over the course of 2020.

We hope you find it an inspiring read.

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1010 Vienna, Austria



Christiane Wendehorst
President



Lord John Thomas
First Vice-President



Pascal Pichonnaz
Second Vice-President



ELI in Brief

Vienna's Old Stock Exchange; home to the ELI Secretariat



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Vienna**

About ELI

Founded in June 2011 as an entirely independent organisation, the European Law Institute (ELI) aims to improve the quality of European law, understood in the broadest sense. It seeks to initiate, conduct and facilitate research, make recommendations and provide practical guidance in the field of European legal development with a goal of enhancing European legal integration. The Institute was inspired by the activities of the American Law Institute (ALI), which was founded in 1923.

ELI's mission is the quest for better law-making in Europe and the enhancement of European legal integration. By its endeavours, ELI seeks to contribute to the formation of a more vigorous European legal community, integrating the achievements of the various legal cultures, endorsing the value of comparative knowledge and taking a genuinely pan-European perspective. As such its work covers all branches of the law: substantive and procedural; private and public.



Membership

In 2020 there were over 1,500 Individual Members and 112 Institutional Members of ELI, representing all branches of law and legal professions. The Institute has two broad categories of members:

- **Fellows** may be either Individual or Institutional. The former must be natural persons and must actively engage, by their professional, vocational or scholarly activities, in European legal development. They are internationally renowned legal professionals from academia, the judiciary, various legal professions, governments, legislatures and other sectors, who participate in the Institute's activities based on their personal and professional convictions and without regard to the interests of any clients or stakeholders. Institutional Fellows must be legal entities representing organisations, institutions or networks, which are actively involved in European legal development. Like Individual

Fellows, Institutional Fellows enjoy voting rights.

- **Observers** may also be Individual or Institutional. Such members take an active interest in European legal development but cannot undertake to speak and vote without regard to the interests of particular stakeholders. As such Observers have no voting rights.

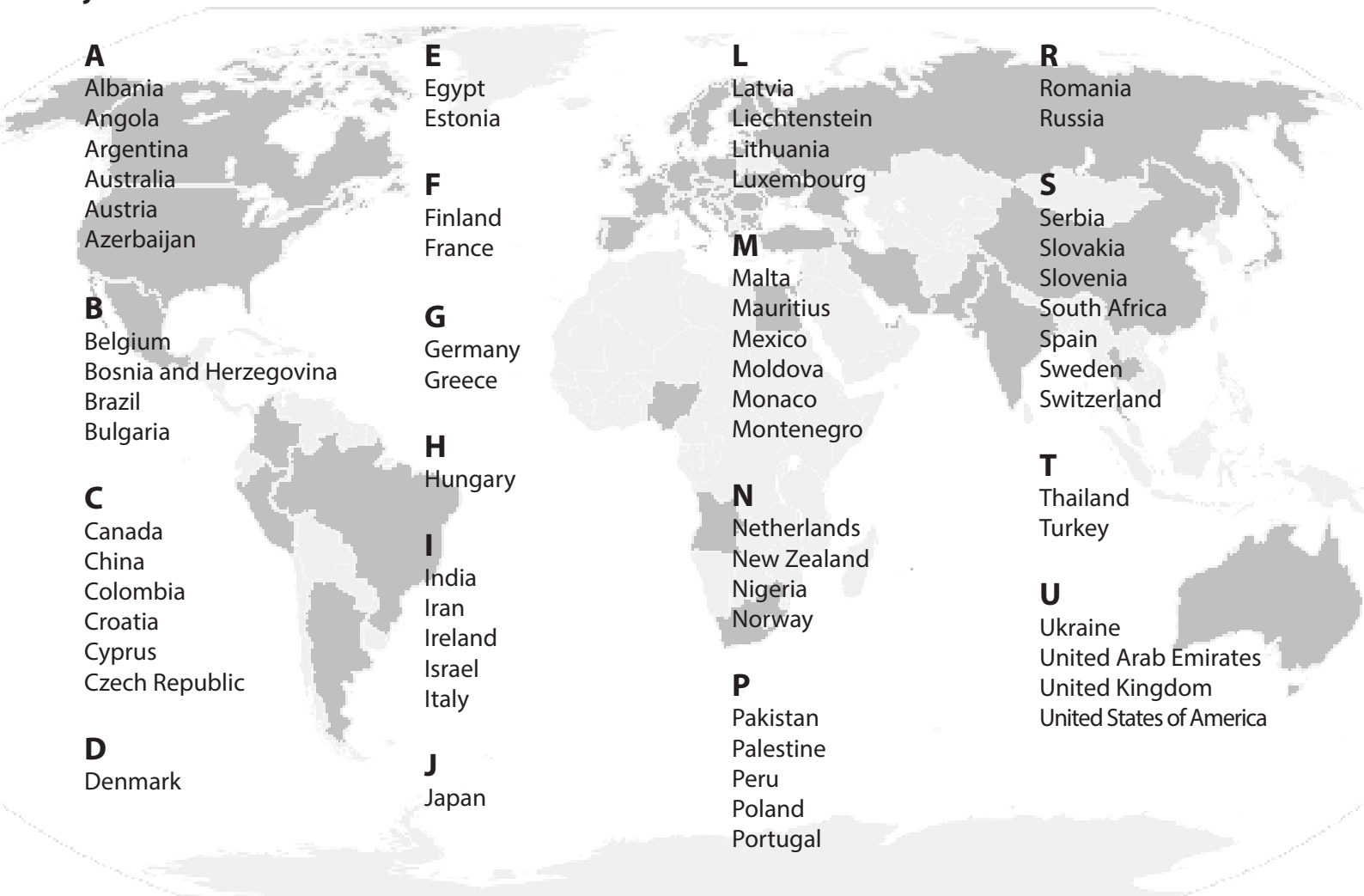


**Individual
Application
Form**



**Institutional
Application
Form**

ELI's steadily growing Membership spans the globe. Members in 2020 stemmed from the following jurisdictions:



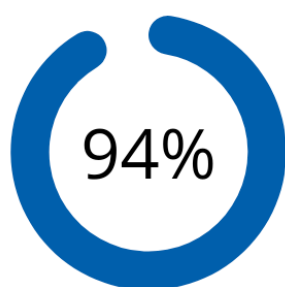
Membership Overview

Total Individual Members

>1500

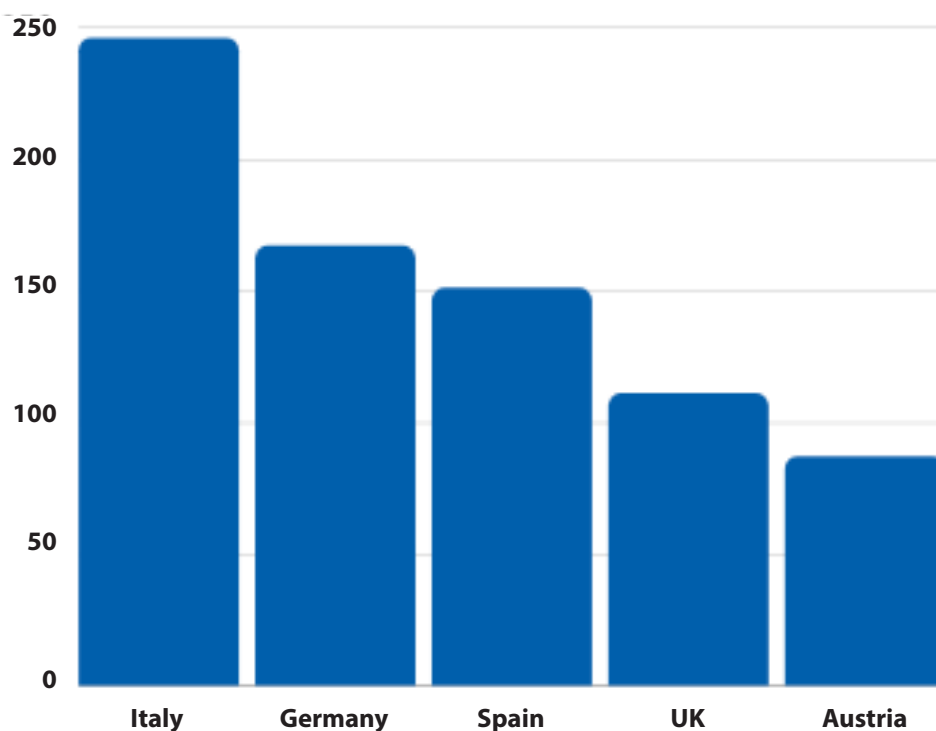
Total Institutional Members

112

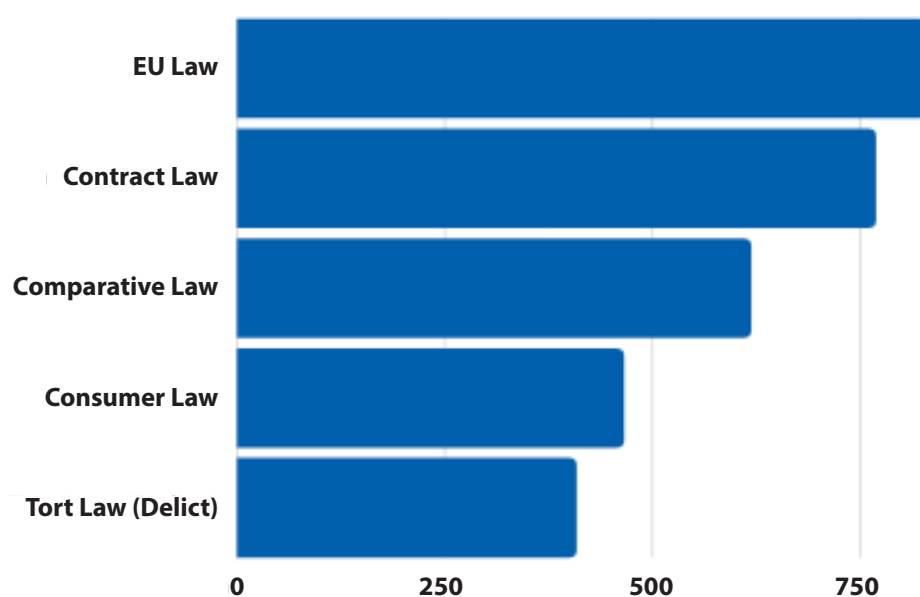


of ELI Members reside within Europe

Top 5 countries of residence of ELI Members



Top 5 areas of law represented by ELI Members



Top 5 professions of Members who joined in 2020

- Academic
- Lawyer
- Government Official
- Judge
- Regulator

Council

The Council consists of a maximum of 56 members, elected by the Membership from among Individual Fellows in a way that adequately takes into account the general principles of the Association. In addition to the elected Council members, the ELI President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and selected others were ex-officio members of the Council in 2020.

Council Members

The ELI Council in 2020 was composed of 56 elected Members, namely:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ■ Ross Gilbert Anderson | ■ Maria Kaiafa-Gbandi |
| ■ Yannis Avgerinos | ■ Ana Keglević Steffek |
| ■ Francesco Avolio | ■ Miklós Király |
| ■ Elena Bargelli | ■ André Klip |
| ■ Teresa Bielska-Sobkowitz | ■ Corrado Malberti |
| ■ Yuri Biondi | ■ William Martin McKechnie |
| ■ Robert Bray | ■ Philip Moser QC |
| ■ Christoph Busch | ■ Damjan Možina |
| ■ Georges Cavalier | ■ Matthias Neumayr |
| ■ Nikolaos Chatzinikolaou | ■ Fausto Pocar |
| ■ Mark Clough | ■ Meliha Povlakić |
| ■ Mario Comba | ■ Illaria Pretelli |
| ■ Andra Cotiga | ■ Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell |
| ■ Olga Cvejić Jančić | ■ Jens Scherpe |
| ■ Daria de Pretis | ■ Ulrich Schroeter |
| ■ Nada Dollani | ■ Reiner Schulze |
| ■ Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson | ■ Andrey Shirvindt |
| ■ Julius Forschner | ■ Pietro Sirena |
| ■ Anne Birgitte Gammeljord | ■ Matthias Storme |
| ■ Athina Giannakoula | ■ François Trémosa |
| ■ Paul Gilligan | ■ Verica Trstenjak (Until February 2020) |
| ■ Miguel Gimeno-Ribes | ■ Kaius Tuori |
| ■ Stefano Giubboni | ■ Christian Twigg-Flesner |
| ■ Friedrich Graf von Westphalen | ■ John Vervaele |
| ■ Laura Guercio | ■ Aneta Wiewiórowska-Domagalska |
| ■ Paola Iamiceli | ■ Aleš Zalar |
| ■ Tatjana Josipović | ■ Irina Zlătescu |
| ■ Thomas Kadner Graziano | ■ Fryderyk Zoll |

Ex-Officio Council Members

- Christiane Wendehorst
- Lord John Thomas
- Pascal Pichonnaz
- Denis Philippe
- President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
- President of the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE)
- President of the European Land Registry Association (ELRA)
- President of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)
- President of the International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ)
- President of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union

Council Meetings

- 20–21 February 2021, Vienna, Austria
- 8–9 September 2021, Online



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is consisting of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and three innominate members. In 2020, the Executive Committee was composed of the following Members:



President
Christiane Wendehorst



First Vice-President
Lord John Thomas



Second Vice-President
Pascal Pichonnaz



Treasurer
Denis Philippe



Member
Anne Birgitte Gammeljord



Member
Pietro Sirena



Member
Fryderyk Zoll

Executive Committee Meetings

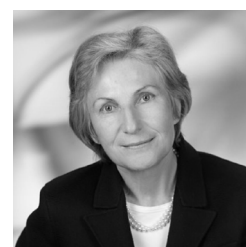
- 19 February 2020
- 20 March 2020, Online
- 27 March 2020, Online
- 3 April 2020, Online
- 16 April 2020, Online
- 18 April 2020, Online
- 15 May 2020, Online
- 3 June 2020, Online
- 29 June 2020, Online
- 7 September 2020, Online
- 13 November 2020, Online
- 2 December 2020, Online
- 18 December 2020, Online

Senate

The Senate is a body of persons each of whom has an outstanding reputation, ready to give advice and, where necessary, to settle disputes. In 2020, the Council was composed of the following Members:



Speaker
Reinhard Zimmermann



Deputy Speaker
Irmgard Griss

- Marta Cartabia
- Arthur Hartkamp
- Sir Francis Jacobs
- Pauliine Koskelo
- Bruno Lasserre
- Lord Jonathan Mance
- Vassilios Skouris
- Lajos Vèkàs
- Eddy Wymeersch

Arbitral Tribunal

The Arbitral Tribunal settles disputes that may arise between Association members and one or several bodies of the Association, or between two or several bodies of the Association, and which concern the question whether or not an act or omission is in conformity with the Articles of Association, Codes of Conduct or Byelaws. It consists of three members of the Senate who are appointed by the Senate for a three-year term.

The following Members were part of the Arbitral Tribunal in 2020:

- Arthur Hartkamp
- Lord Jonathan Mance
- Bruno Lasserre

New Institutional Members in 2020

ELI is proud to partner with several EU institutions and international organisations, courts, law firms, professional associations as well as academic and other Members. Nine new Institutional Members joined ELI in 2020:

The Research Institute for Private Insurance Law (Forschungsinstitut für Privatversicherungsrecht)



Privatversicherungsrecht



The Research Institute for Private Insurance Law has been in existence at the Paris-Lodron University of Salzburg since 1973. Its main tasks are research and further education in private insurance law. The Research Institute also maintains an extensive academic library on private insurance law in the Faculty Library of Law.

The fruitful work of the Institute has benefited from the contributions of the most famous Serbian legal science professionals, professors of faculties of law and academics. The Institute's activities have also brought together prominent foreign experts. It has published more than 300 monographs and thematic anthologies and maintains a specialised library with over 24,000 titles and foreign laws available to all those who wish to study foreign law.

The Dutch Brussels Bar (Nederlandse Orde van advocaten bij de balie te Brussel, NOAB)



Nederlandse Orde
van Advocaten bij
de Balie te Brussel

The Dutch Brussels Bar (Nederlandse Orde van advocaten bij de balie te Brussel, NOAB) is the Dutch Language Section of the Brussels Bar.

Regulated by law, the NOAB currently has approximately 3,300 members, including 297 foreign lawyers (EU-list and B-list), all of whom are in private practice and have an office in the city of Brussels or in the larger Brussels area. NOAB guards the independence and ethics of lawyers, it endeavours to present lawyers in their proper light and provides efficient access to justice.

The Institute of Comparative Law

INSTITUT ZA UPOREDNO PRAVO

Beograd, Srbija



The Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade is one of the leading research institutions in the field of social sciences in Serbia and the Western Balkans region. Its more than 60 years of continuous work make it one of the oldest institutions for comparative law research in the world.

In addition to scientific research and publishing activity, the Institute contributes with its expertise to the development of legal science, modern legislation and quality solutions for contemporary legal challenges in Serbia and the Western Balkans region.

The School of Law of the University of Nicosia



With more than 25 years of experience in the provision of a top-tier legal education, the School of Law can also be credited for awarding the first law degrees in Cyprus that were officially recognised academically by the Republic and professionally recognised by the Cyprus Legal Council.

Today, the School offers a number of innovative courses and legal programmes that are recognised by the Cyprus Legal Council for access to the legal profession. Through these, we aim to help gain a competitive edge in a prestigious selection of professional careers.

The School of Law of Bocconi University



The School of Law of Bocconi University (Bocconi School of Law) is a leading teaching and research institution based in Milan (Italy). It was founded in 1999. As a part of Bocconi University, Bocconi School of Law enjoys great reputation and high standing for the excellence of its teaching and research activities in national and international rankings.

Bocconi School of Law offers several academic programs, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, with courses covering all branches of law. Courses are offered in Italian and English.

Bitri & Bakiu



BITRI & BAKIU is an innovative and flexible law firm, focusing on delivering quick and reliable legal advisory and representation services to Clients. They tailor their services to the specific requirements of the Client and provide comprehensive and to the point advice. The attorneys at BITRI & BAKIU have extensive experience in public administration, judicial bodies and various projects. One of their attorneys worked for several years as Legal Adviser at the Constitutional Court of Albania, Supreme Court, as well as Legal Expert in the General Directorate for Codification in the Ministry of Justice. Lately she has been appointed as Legal Advisor to the Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration, in charge of the reform of public services.

With extensive experience in civil and corporate law, labour law, as well as public and administrative law, they can address all the needs of commercial companies. Their attorneys are specialised in all aspects of intellectual and industrial property protection in Albania, including patent, trademark and industrial design prosecution and maintenance, along with representation before the Albanian courts and other government and administrative bodies in relation to intellectual and industrial property issues. At BITRI & BAKIU they understand the importance of the insurance sector and one of their attorneys is specialised in this field, with extensive experience in drafting laws and bylaws in the field of Public, Commercial and Civil Law and more specifically in the field of Civil Law.

The European Circuit of Bars



The European Circuit is a volunteer organisation engaged in professional education for European lawyers with cross-border practices and/or who are interested in comparative law. Their objective is to provide a forum for legal education, debating, sharing 'best practice' in European law and comparative law and networking. Established in 2001, the European Circuit was the first new

circuit to be created in some 300 years and was inaugurated in a ceremony in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn. Its creation was an attempt to address the realities of the 21st century, in which there is greater contact than ever before between lawyers in different jurisdictions within Europe. Given this fact, it was felt that there was a growing need for a forum for those lawyers in which to meet and discuss practical matters arising from this increased trans-border activity. Currently members of the Circuit come from England and Wales and Ireland and from a variety of other jurisdictions within Europe including Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, France and Germany.

School of Law of the Jagran Lakecity University



JLU Bhopal is one of the fastest growing and most awarded universities of Central India, having practice based pedagogy at its core. Currently, the University is offering 56 degree programmes to more than 2,500 students from eight countries and 27 states of India. The University has 27 partnerships with top industries and international universities ensuring the students get participating university from Central India in the ERASMUS+ programme under the Tuning India Project, funded by the European Commission and is also currently the country chair for the Association of Universities of Asia Pacific (AUAP). The University has been bestowed with several prestigious awards, such as 'University of the Year' by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for four consecutive years in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 and was recognised as a 'Global League Institution' both nationally and internationally. JLU Bhopal has been ranked 'No. 1 Private University in Madhya Pradesh' in the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 by several leading publications.

Blockchain Education Network Italy



Since 2014, BlockchainEdu Association (Blockchain Education Network Italy) has been a non-profit Italian association that promotes the study and use of Blockchain technology through conferences, courses, and projects. BlockchainEdu is oriented towards a university environment and collects applications from students, teachers, and researchers while collaborating with companies and public administrations. The mission of the Association is the dissemination of science and technology education at the base of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.



Funding in 2020

Framework Cooperation Agreement with the University of Vienna

The current Framework Cooperation Agreement between the University of Vienna and ELI runs from 2019 until 2023, thus marking the second such extension since the University of Vienna began hosting the ELI Secretariat in 2011.



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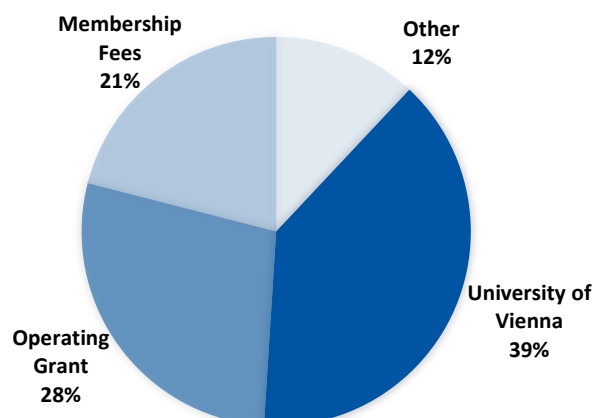
Co-funded by
the European Union

EU Funding

ELI also obtained funding through the 2020 Operating Grant awarded within the four-year Framework Partnership Agreement with the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers' (DG JUST) Programme for the period 2018–2021. Alongside general ELI activities, such as projects, some ELI Secretariat staff members, the ELI Executive Committee, Council, Senate, some activities of ELI Hubs and SIGs, and High Level Expert Group (HLEG) meetings as well as the ELI Annual Conference and Meetings were co-funded through the Operating Grant.

Membership and Sustaining Membership Fees

We are pleased to announce that the Sustaining Membership Scheme enjoys increasing popularity among new Individual Members. More than 90 ELI Members, current and former ones, donated annually EUR 60 on top of their membership fees since the introduction of the scheme at the Council Meeting in February 2018. Besides the possibility of participating in ELI activities and benefiting from some of the discounts as listed on our [website](#), Sustaining Members can have their brief profile featured on the individual members section of the ELI website [here](#). We invite you to become a Sustaining Member by contacting the [ELI Secretariat](#).



Sustaining Members

ELI wishes to thank the following Sustaining Members for being part of the scheme in 2020.

Alexander Arabadjiev	Petra Lea Lăncos
Maria Lourdes Arastey	Lance Liebman
Sahún	Vanessa Mak
Andrej Auersperger Matić	Jonathan McGowan
William Lawrence Aylmer	Piotr Machnikowski
Josef Azizi	Corrado Malberti
Chris Backes	Dan Marcotte QC
Elena Bargelli	Maarten Meijer
Remi Barneoud	Attila Menyhárd
Sarah Bechaalany	Antonio Manuel Morales
Teresa Bielska-Sobkowicz	Moreno
Cristian Bitea	Eliana Morandi
Robert Bray	Karl-Heinz Oehler
Daniele Busani	J Bronagh O'Hanlon
Salvatore Buscema	Tekla Papp
Sabino Cassese	Denis Philippe
Darinka Dekleva Marguč	Pascal Pichonnaz
Emilio De Capitani	Fausto Pocar
Larry DiMatteo	Corina Florenta Popescu
Walter Doralt	Teresa Rodriguez de las
Tanel Feldman	Heras Ballell
John Gaffney	Nelson Rosenvald
Anne Birgitte Gammeljord	Albert Ruda
Patrick Gielen	Jorge Sánchez Cordero
Paolo Ghiringhelli	Vincent Smith
Paul Gilligan	Henricus (Henk) J Snijders
Laurence Gormley	John Sorabji
Angelo Jr Golia	Astrid Stadler
Friedrich Graf von	Felix Steffek
Westphalen	Ben Steinbrück
Irmgard Griss	Jeffrey Stempel
Rodger Peter Harris	Gert Straetmans
Daniel M Häusermann	Lord John Thomas
Diarmuid Hegarty	Christiaan Timmermans
Christian Hertel	Ivan Tot
Hana Horak	Sjef van Erp
Paola Iamiceli	Lajos Vekas
Marta Infantino	Aura Esther Vilalta
Elena Ioriatti	Nicuesa
Francisco Javier Jiménez	Steven O Weise
Muñoz	Christiane Wendehorst
Phillip Johnson	Vanessa Wilcox
Tatjana Josipović	Eike Wolf
Bernhard A Koch	Herbert Zech
Velibor Korać	Reinhard Zimmermann
Pavel Koukal	Irina Zlătescu

Other

Other sources of funding include a grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation for the Principles for a Data Economy project which ELI conducts with the American Law Institute (ALI). ELI is also grateful to the City of Vienna for its generous funding.

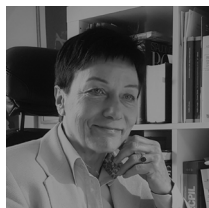


ELI Secretariat

Since 2011, the Secretariat of ELI has been hosted by the University of Vienna. The main tasks of the Secretariat are to coordinate ELI's day-to-day projects and activities, organise events, support ELI bodies in fulfilling their tasks and liaise with ELI's current and potential Members. In 2020, the Secretariat was composed of the following:



Vanessa Wilcox
Secretary General
(On maternity leave since June 2020)



Bea Verschraegen
Secretary General
(June–December 2020)



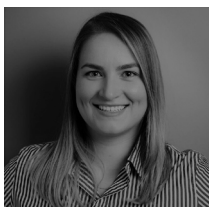
Tomasz Dudek
Senior Project Officer



Zuzana Fačková
Administrative Officer



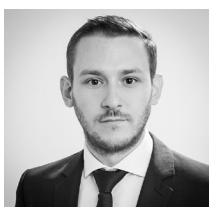
Katja Kolman
Project Officer



Jessica Pühr
PR Officer
(part-time since October 2020)



Petra Richterová
Finance and Event Officer
(part-time since October 2020)



Sebastian Schwamberger
IT Support

Other Secretariat Staff:

Mary Penman, **Administrative Assistant** (part-time May–July 2020) and **PR Officer** (part-time July–October 2020)

Leon Addie, **PR Officer** (January–April 2020)

David Hirner, **Project Officer** (February–March 2020)



The Old Börse in Vienna, home of the ELI Secretariat



The European Commission in Brussels



The main building of the University of Vienna

ELI Annual Conference



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ELI Annual Conference 2020



ELI Youtube

The 2020 ELI Annual Conference was held remotely from 8–11 September. The Conference was attended by a record number of over 600 leading judges, practitioners, lawmakers, and academics. In total, 61 speakers sat in twelve webinars dealing with current and prospective ELI projects. Additionally, two books were launched and special events dedicated to Hubs and SIGs took place.

Welcome by ELI President

The event was opened by ELI President, Christiane Wendehorst, who, among other things, highlighted the strength and resilience of the ELI community during the crisis.

‘And suddenly we saw colleagues more often, at all sort of times, and in their living rooms. Everybody is speaking of social distancing, but in a way, we’ve moved closer together.’

Welcome by Austrian Minister for Justice

President Wendehorst’s opening was followed by that of Austrian Minister for Justice Alma Zadić. She drew attention to the challenges the Coronavirus has brought to the legal system and, in particular, to the difficulty of striking the right balance between basic fundamental rights and the protection of health.

‘The crisis has explicitly demonstrated how valuable our fundamental principles are. [...] It shows the importance and the beauty of the constitution.’

Keynote by EU Commissioner for Justice

In his keynote speech, EU Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, elaborated on the importance of the rule of law. Another topic that was discussed in depth during Commissioner Reynders’ speech and the ensuing Q&A session was the digitalisation of justice.

‘What makes the rule of law so important is that it guarantees the respect of all our values, including democracy and fundamental rights. My conviction is firm; there can be no compromise when it comes to defending all common values.’

Current and Upcoming Projects in Focus

In a series of stand-alone webinars, Members heard from Project Teams, authors of feasibility studies, and external experts. A total of twelve webinars on the following topics were held.

- [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Public Administration](#)
- [Blockchain Technology and Smart Contracts](#)
- [Access to Digital Assets](#)
- [Business and Human Rights](#)
- [Fundamental Constitutional Principles](#)
- [Admissibility of Criminal Evidence in the Digital Age](#)
- [Principles for a Data Economy](#)
- [ELI-UNIDROIT European Model Rules of Civil Procedure](#)
- [Independence of Judiciary](#)
- [The Concept and the Role of Courts in Family and Succession Matters](#)
- [EU Conflict of Laws for Companies](#)
- [Corporate Sustainability, Financial Accounting and Share Capital](#)

All recordings can be found on the [Youtube](#) page of the Secretariat.

Book Launches

‘Rescue of Business in Europe’ and ‘Coronavirus and the Law’ were launched at the Conference.

Hubs and SIGs

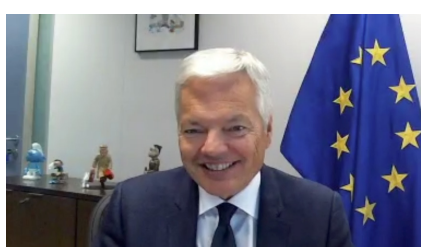
ELI honoured its most exemplary Hubs and SIGs. In 2020, the Spanish Hub, chaired by Carmen Jerez Delgado and Albert Ruda, and the Digital Law SIG, chaired by Christoph Busch and Alberto De Franceschi, won the Hub and SIG of the year awards.

Young Lawyers Award

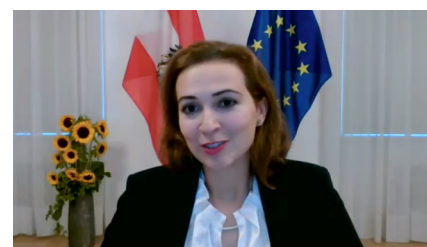
Alina Škiljić was awarded the Young Lawyers Award for her paper entitled ‘Health Data (“Data Concerning Health”) Inferences – An Unexplored Volcano Eager to Erupt Post COVID-19 Crisis - Aligning Inferences with GDPR Principles?’.



Christiane Wendehorst



Didier Reynders



Alma Zadić

A close-up photograph of a classical statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding a pair of scales. The statue is made of a light-colored material, possibly marble or stone, and is set against a background of vertical wooden planks. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the statue and the wood.

ELI Projects and Other Activities



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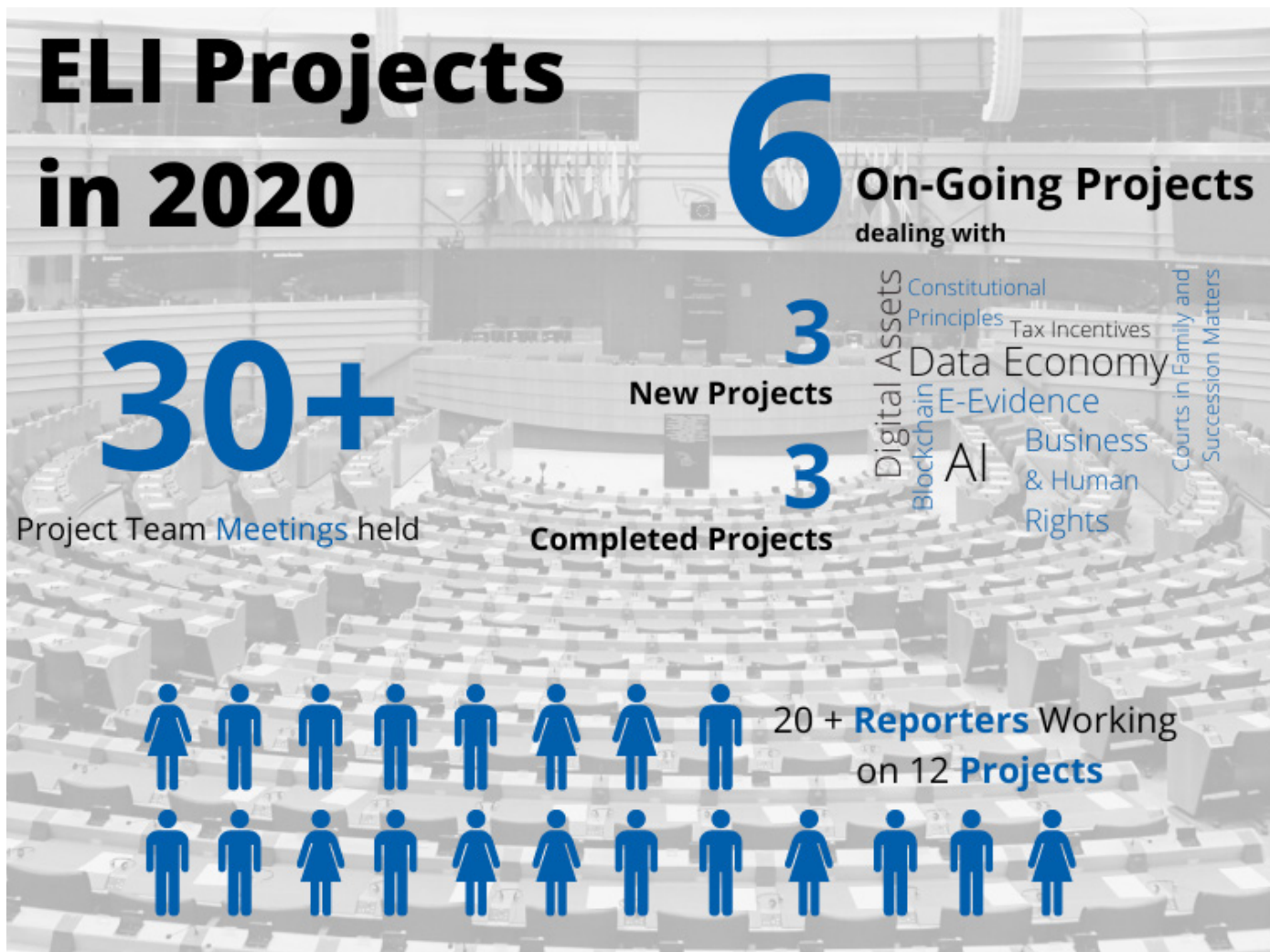


City of
Vienna

ELI Projects

Projects are the cornerstone of ELI's activities. In 2020, ELI's portfolio constituted 12 projects, a number of which were funded by the EU. The selection, management and approval of projects carried out under the auspices of

ELI are regulated by the [ELI Project Guidelines](#) which are available on the ELI website.



On-Going Projects

- For a European Approach to R&D Tax Incentive(s)
- Principles for a Data Economy: Data Rights and Transactions (with the ALI)
- Freedom of Expression as a Common Constitutional Tradition in Europe
- Business and Human Rights: Access to Justice and Effective Remedies (with input from FRA)
- Blockchain Technology and Smart Contracts
- Access to Digital Assets

New Projects

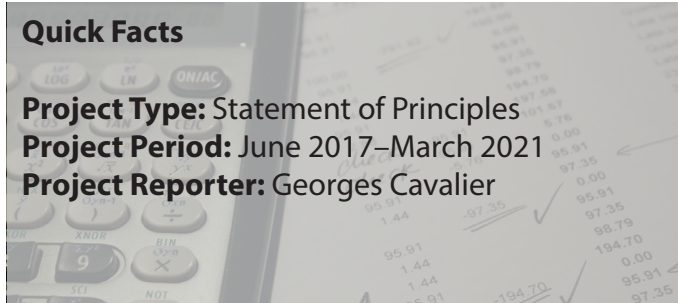
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Administration - Developing Impact Assessments and Public Participation for Digital Democracy
- Admissibility of E-Evidence in Criminal Proceedings in the EU
- The Concept and the Role of Courts in Family and Succession Matters

Recently Completed Projects

- Model Rules on Online Platforms
- Protection of Adults in International Situations
- Model European Rules of Civil Procedure (with UNIDROIT)

Current Projects

For a European Approach to R&D Tax Incentive(s)

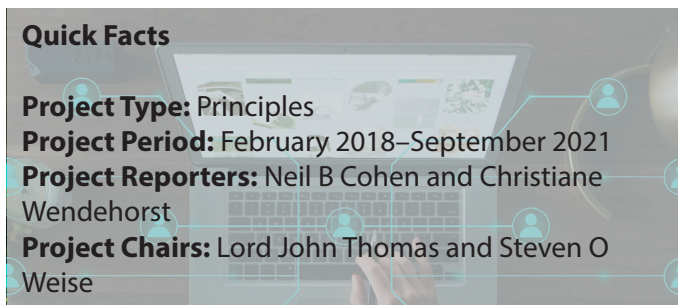


Quick Facts

Project Type: Statement of Principles
Project Period: June 2017–March 2021
Project Reporter: Georges Cavalier

The aim of the project is to ensure certainty as to what constitutes R&D for the EU's Common Corporate Tax Base (CCTB), since the CCTB provides a definition of R&D tax incentives, but does not explain which expenses will qualify for a reduction.

Principles for a Data Economy: Data Rights and Transactions (with the ALI)



Quick Facts

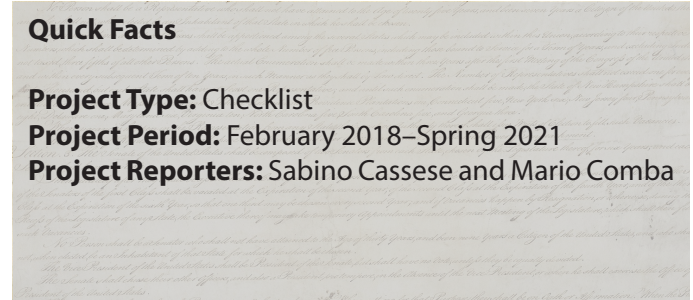
Project Type: Principles
Project Period: February 2018–September 2021
Project Reporters: Neil B Cohen and Christiane Wendehorst
Project Chairs: Lord John Thomas and Steven O Weise

The purpose of these Principles is to provide guidance to and to inform parties, practitioners, arbitral tribunals, standardisation bodies, courts, and legislators worldwide. They seek to promote the enhancement and better adaptation of the law to the data economy as an ever more important part of the economy at large and to identify guiding principles in dealing with data as an asset and tradeable item.

Activities

- 17 January 2020
Presentation of the Council Draft in Philadelphia (US)
- 22 June 2020
Project Team Meeting (Webinar)
- 10 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 8 October 2020
Reporters Meeting with ALI and ELI Advisors

Freedom of Expression as a Common Constitutional Tradition in Europe



Quick Facts

Project Type: Checklist
Project Period: February 2018–Spring 2021
Project Reporters: Sabino Cassese and Mario Comba

This project seeks, on the example of Freedom of Expression, to identify the source of Common Constitutional Traditions in Europe; their content; their relationship with national identity; whether they are an autonomous source of European law and the way in which they emerge as common to Member States and are expressed as such.

Activities

- 30–31 January 2020
Seminar and Project Team Meeting in Heidelberg (Germany)
- 15 October 2020
Webinar on Common Constitutional Traditions in the European Union

Business and Human Rights: Access to Justice and Effective Remedies (with input from FRA)



Quick Facts

Project Type: Report identifying a range of possible regulatory and/or soft-law options
Project Period: February 2018–2021
Project Reporters: Jonas Grimheden and Diana Wallis

This ELI project, conducted with input from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), will aim at identifying a range of possible regulatory and/or soft-law options, both at Member State and at the EU level, intended to increase access to remedy in the EU and ensure corporate human rights compliance.

Activities

- 30 April 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 26 June 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 19 August 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 11 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 25 September 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 20 October 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 27 October 2020
Presentation of the Project at the Meeting of the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee

Blockchain Technology and Smart Contracts

Quick Facts

Project Type: Principles
Project Period: September 2018–December 2021
Project Reporters: Martin Hanzl and Juliette Sénéchal
Project Chair: Sjef van Erp

The project aims at providing policymakers, legislators, but also legal practitioners with a legislative guide, a toolbox, on how to approach questions in this emerging legal field.

Activities

- 10 June 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 2 July 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 10 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 23 October 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting

Access to Digital Assets

Quick Facts

Project Type: Principles
Project Period: March 2019–September 2021
Project Reporters: Sjef van Erp and Jos Uitdehaag

The project aims to draft guiding principles, which will propose a firm basis for harmonising the laws of the Member States in such a way: (a) that these laws are based on a common understanding of what is meant by, 'digital assets', 'access to digital assets', etc; (b) which give basic rights to those entitled to such assets; and (c) facilitate the work of legal practitioners when they are confronted with problems surrounding digital assets.

Activities

- 15 April 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 15 June 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 30 June 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 10 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 4 November 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 18 December 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Public Administration – Developing Impact Assessments and Public Participation for Digital Democracy

Quick Facts

Project Type: Model Rules
Project Period: May 2020–December 2021
Project Reporters: Marc Clément, Paul Craig and Jens-Peter Schneider
Project Chair: Marek Wierzbowski

The project aims at developing a set of model rules that include the need to conduct an impact assessment and a public consultation prior to the introduction of an AI-

based tool by public administration.

Activities

- 26 May 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 1 July 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 25 August 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 10 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 8 October 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting
- 27 October 2020
Remote Meeting with the Advisory Committee and Project Team Meeting
- 16 November 2020
Remote Project Team meeting
- 24 November 2020
Remote Meeting with MCC
- 9 December 2020
Remote Project Team Meeting

Admissibility of E-Evidence in Criminal Proceedings in the EU

Quick Facts

Project Type: Draft Legislative Proposal
Project Period: September 2020–April 2022
Project Reporters: Lorena Bachmaier Winter and Farsam Salimi

The project will develop a legislative proposal on admissibility and exclusionary rules of e-evidence and also traditional evidence in criminal proceedings accompanied by a background study, with a view to address the lack of uniform practice in the field among EU Member States.

The Concept and the Role of Courts in Family and Succession Matters

Quick Facts

Project Type: Draft Legislative Proposal
Project Period: September 2020–September 2022
Project Reporters: Elena Bargelli, Anatol Dutta and François Trémosa

The project aims at improving the application and implementation of out-of-court proceeding in family and succession matters and will have an impact on legal certainty for European citizens.

Activities

- 11 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 29 October 2020
Remote Reporters Meetings

Recently Completed Projects

Model Rules for Online Platforms

Quick Facts

Project Type: Model Rules
Project Period: January 2017–December 2019
Project Reporters: Christoph Busch, Gerhard Dannemann, Hans Schulte-Nölke, Aneta Wiewiorowska-Domagalska and Fryderyk Zoll

The ELI Project Team has drawn up a set of Model Rules that is meant as a contribution to the ongoing debate and provides a 'visualisation' of how a balanced approach could look, if regulatory action is considered necessary. It goes without saying that the ELI Model Rules cannot address all possible legal aspects of the platform economy. More precisely, these rules only deal with one core aspect of online platforms: the relationship between platform operators and platform users. What are the duties of platform operators towards platform users? In which cases may operators be liable towards users? What are the minimum requirements regarding fairness and the transparency of platforms? How should reputation systems for the collection of customer reviews be designed? Should there be a right to the portability of 'reputational capital'?

With regard to these questions, the ELI Model Rules not only aim to consolidate existing European and national legislation, but also provide some innovative solutions for issues that could be addressed in forthcoming regulatory initiatives, in particular platform liability and reputation systems. These rules draw inspiration from European and national legislation, recent case law as well as other regulatory instruments such as international standards.

The ELI Model Rules are based on the premise that the existing rules of competition law are necessary, but not sufficient for ensuring fairness in the digital economy. These rules, which are applicable independently of any threshold regarding market power, are meant to complement antitrust rules. From this perspective, the ELI Model Rules could provide a source of inspiration for European and national legislators or industry self-regulation.



Final Report

Activities

- 28 February 2020
Model Rules on Online Platforms were approved by ELI Bodies
- 17 December 2020
ELI Model Rules on Online Platforms Discussed in the Context of the Digital Services Act

Protection of Adults in International Situations

Quick Facts

Project Type: An Aide for Legislators and Those Drafting or Preparing Private Mandates

Project Period: September 2017–March 2020

Project Reporters: Pietro Franzina and Richard Frimston

The ELI project was successfully approved by ELI's Membership in March 2020. The report encourages the European Union to consider both external action and the enactment of legislation in the field of protection of adults. It addresses the following issues: (a) the bases and scope of the Union's competences as regards the protection of adults in international situations; (b) the strategies that the Union should consider following in order to enhance the protection of adults in the relations between Member States; and (c) further improvements that the Union may promote with respect to the Hague Conven-

tion of 13 January 2000 on the International Protection of Adults without making use of its external competence or its legislative powers. Finally, the report sets forth a checklist to encourage the development of private mandates within the ambit of the substantive laws of the Member States.

Strides have and will continue to be taken to bring the text to the attention of European institutions, the institutions of Member States (and selected third countries) and relevant stakeholders. The project was already presented to Members of the European Parliament, an ELI Instrumental Member and an Observer to the ELI project. The report has also been brought to the attention of UK Law Societies, legislators and the Ministry of Justice, in light of the UK parliament is discussing legislation on private international law due to Brexit. It is hoped that the report will also inform the Special Commission on the 2000 Hague Convention which the Hague Conference on Private International Law plans to convene in 2022.



Final Report

Activities

- 21 January 2020
Presentation of Draft ELI protection of Adults Output to European Parliament members in Brussels (Belgium)
- 21 March 2020
Report on the Protection of Adults in International Situations was approved by ELI bodies

Model European Rules of Civil Procedure (with the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, UNIDROIT)

Quick Facts

Project Type: Model Rules

Project Period: February 2014–September 2020

Steering Committee: Remo Caponi, John Sorabji, Rolf Stürner, Anna Veneziano and Diana Wallis

The ELI and UNIDROIT aimed at adapting the American Law Institute-UNIDROIT Principles of Transnational Civil Procedure, published in 2004, to a European perspective in order to develop Model European Rules of Civil Procedure. The goal of the work was to reduce uncertainty for parties litigating in unfamiliar surroundings and promote fairness in judicial proceedings.

The project was adopted in February 2014 (Council Decision 2014/5) and a total of ten Working Groups, consisting of leading experts in civil procedure law (academics, judges and practitioners) from over 16 countries, were established.

The two organisations worked together in a bid to elaborate the Rules that could constitute a frame of reference for policy makers both at European and national levels. Most importantly, the Team succeeded in striking a balance between the generality and specificity of the Rules, ensuring that they are general enough to be acceptable for all Member States, but at the same time specific enough to promote common standards that allow for an increase of mutual trust.

The Rules have a potential to influence European civil procedure law and have long been eagerly awaited by key decision-making organisations, such as the European Parliament. With these Model Rules, the ELI and UNIDROIT present a model law ready to be further discussed at the EU level and adapted by national legislators, with a view to facilitating and enhancing the judicial cooperation and access to justice in Europe.

Activities

- 29 January 2020
Meeting of the Group preparing the French version of the Rules in Paris (France)
- 5 August 2020 - ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure Approved by ELI Bodies
- 10 September 2020
Panel at the ELI Annual Conference (Webinar)
- 24 September 2020 - ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure Approved by UNIDROIT
- 25 September 2020
Workshop on the ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure

Other Activities

ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis



Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic hit Europe for the first time, ELI published its 'ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis', which address some of the most important legal issues arising in relation to the COVID-19 crisis and offer guidance to European States, EU institutions and other bodies. The 15 Principles were prepared by the ELI Executive Committee in consultation with ELI's Senate and Council and with input from its Members from an independent non-governmental perspective with due consideration of what has been published by other bodies.

They address the following issues: (1) fundamental values, principles and freedoms; (2) non-discrimination; (3) democracy; (4) lawmaking; (5) justice system; (6) privacy and data protection; (7) borders and freedom of movement; (8) free movement of goods and services; (9) employment and the economy; (10) continuity of relationships at a distance; (11) education; (12) moratorium on regular payments; (13) force majeure and hardship; (14) exemption from liability for simple negligence and (15) return to normality.

The full principles are available for download [here](#). They have also been translated to [French](#), [Italian](#), and [Polish](#).



ELI Principles

'I consider that ELI's 15 Principles for the COVID-19 crisis will prove to be useful tool for all actors.'

– Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, then President of the ECtHR

In connection to the 'ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis', a series of webinars was organised, which further discussed the legal implications of the COVID-19 crisis.

■ [ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

ELI Executive Committee members, Lord John Thomas, Fryderyk Zoll, Christiane Wendehorst herself, Anne Birgitte Gammeljord, Pascal Pichonnaz, Pietro Sirena and Denis Philippe, presented individual Principles, which dealt with issues such as fundamental values, principles and freedoms, democracy, law making, privacy and data protection, employment and the economy, and force majeure and hardship.

■ [Hardship & Force Majeure](#)

Pascal Pichonnaz (Chair), Hugh Beale QC, Denis Philippe, Christina Ramberg, Pietro Sirena and Fryderyk Zoll discussed the application of hardship and force majeure from French, Italian, German/Polish, Scandinavian (particularly Swedish) and the common law (mainly English) perspectives.

■ [Insolvency and Collection Proceedings Post-COVID-19](#)

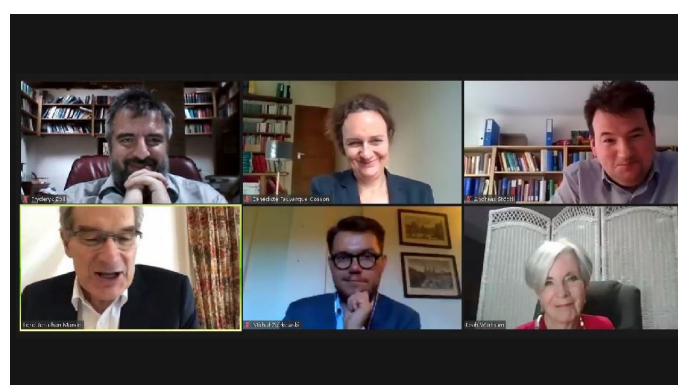
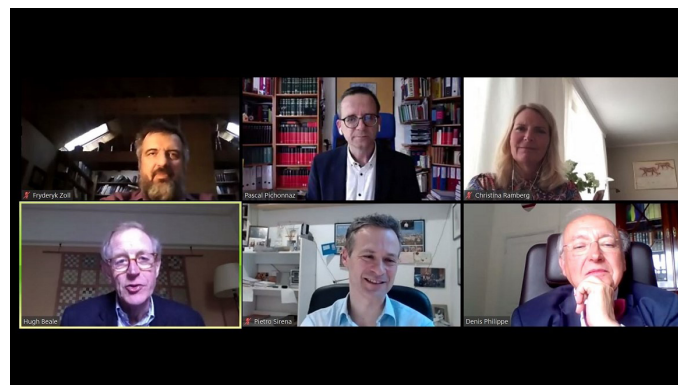
Anne Birgitte Gammeljord, Denis Philippe, Walter Stoffel and Jos Uitdehaag discussed insolvency and collection proceedings after COVID-19 from their national, global and in the case of Uitdehaag institutional perspectives.

■ [Back to Normal: Checks and Balances](#)

Lord John Thomas (Chair), Ole Böger, Anne Birgitte Gammeljord, and Bruno Lasserre presented the Danish, French, German and British perspectives on issues such as courts' responses to the crisis, including court hearing arrangements, the use of different technological and procedural tools and the role of courts in upholding democratic principles and controlling executive law-making during and after the crisis.

■ [Rule of Law During and Post-COVID-19](#)

Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson, Lord Jonathan Mance, Andreas Stöckli, Leah Wortham, Michał Ziółkowski and Fryderyk Zoll (Chair), discussed the French, Polish, Swiss and UK perspectives on the rule of law during and after the crisis.



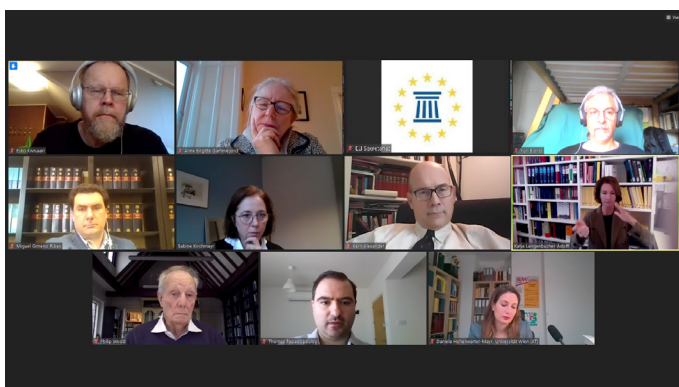
HLEG Meetings

ELI continued to organise a series of High Level Expert Group Meetings in 2020 with a view to exploring topics for possible projects in which there are imbalances in its project portfolio. Four meetings in total were held remotely in the areas of Financial Law, Labour Law, Corporate Criminal Liability, and Data Law. ELI is grateful to the experts for sharing their expertise.

HLEG Meeting on Financial Law

26 November 2020

Participants: Kern Alexander, Yuri Biondi, Miguel Gimeno Ribes, Daniela Hohenwarter, Sabine Kirchmayr-Schlieselberger, Esko Antero Kivisaari, Katja Langenbucher, Thomas Papadopoulos, Philip Wood CBE QC [Hon] and Anne Gammeljord.



HLEG Meeting on Corporate Criminal Liability

16 December 2020

Participants: Robert Bray, William Julié, André Klip, Celina Nowak, David Ormerod, Bertrand Perrin, Fausto Pocar, Jürgen Wessing and Christiane Wendehorst.



HLEG Meeting on Labour Law

26 November 2020

Participants: Jeremias Adams-Prassl, Elisabeth Brameshuber, Stefano Giubboni, Yves Jorens, Karine Lempen, Adam Pokorny, Lubomír Ptáček, Sophie Robin Olivier, Grega Strban and Pascal Pichonnaz.



HLEG Meeting on Data Law

18 December 2020

Participants: Malte Beyer-Katzenberger, Anna Buchta, Lee A Bygrave, Gloria González Fuster, Wolfgang Kerber, Orla Lynskey, Lilian Mitrou, Louisa Specht-Riemenschneider, Alain Strowel, Jacques de Werra and Christiane Wendehorst.





ELI Hubs and SIGs



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ELI Hubs & SIGs Activities

In 2020, 12 ELI Hubs (country specific groups) and 11 SIGs (topic specific groups) supported ELI's cause and organised several activities described below.

■ Austrian Hub	■ Business and Financial Law SIG
■ Belgio-Luxembourg Hub	■ Competition Law SIG
■ Croatian Hub	■ Digital Law SIG
■ French Hub	■ Dispute Resolution SIG
■ German Hub	■ Environmental Law SIG
■ Hungarian Hub	■ Family and Succession Law SIG
■ Irish Hub	■ Fundamental Rights Law SIG
■ Italian Hub	■ Global Private Law SIG
■ Polish Hub	■ Insurance Law SIG
■ Slovenian Hub	■ Intellectual Property Law SIG
■ Spanish Hub	
■ United Kingdom Hub	
■ Administrative Law SIG	

Austrian Hub

Re-Launch Conference of the Austrian Hub on 'The Implementation of the Directive Concerning Contracts for the Sale of Goods and the Digital Content and Digital Services Directive'

27 November 2020

Hungarian Hub

Conference on 'The European Union and the COVID-19 Crisis'

27 November 2020

Italian Hub

Webinar on 'Common Constitutional Traditions in the European Union'

15 October 2020

Conference on Current Issues in European Legislature and Jurisprudence ('Stage Andrea Caffero' Webinar)

17–19 December 2020

Spanish Hub

Remote Gathering of the ELI Spanish Hub at the '5th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Hub on European Case Law'

15 May 2020

Hub of the Year

9 September 2020

Business and Financial Law SIG

Workshop on 'Access to Capital, Corporate Governance and Regulatory Competition in Corporate Law: A Union that Strives for More?'

6 March 2020

ELI Business and Financial Law SIG Panel on 'The Case for Corporate Sustainability: Implications for Company Law and Financial Accounting' at the SASE Research Network's Annual Conference

21 July 2020

Business and Financial Law SIG Panel on its on-going feasibility study on 'Corporate Sustainability, Company Law and Financial Accounting' at the 4th International Conference on European Company Law and Corporate Governance

27 November 2020

Digital Law SIG

Webinar Series: Digital Lunch Talks

29 April 2020; 28 May 2020; 11 June 2020

SIG of the Year

9 September 2020

Webinar on 'The ELI Model Rules on Online Platforms and the Digital Services Act: Which Rules for the Platform Economy?'

17 December 2020

Environmental Law SIG

Online Conference on 'Environmental Sustainability and "The European Green Deal": Values, Innovation and Regulation'

12–13 November 2020

Family and Succession Law SIG

Remote SIG Meeting

9 October 2020

Webinar on the Interplay of Succession and Matrimonial property Regimes

9 October 2020

Global Private Law SIG

Conference on Blockchain Technology, Data Management and Smart Contracts: Challenges and Opportunities

27 February 2020



ELI Representation and Newsletters



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ELI Representation



ELI President Met Austrian MFA

7 January 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst and Secretary General Vanessa Wilcox met Head of Unit for EU and Fundamental Issues at the Federal Ministry of Republic of Austria for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (MFA), Gerhard Eisl. While discussing ELI's current and prospective projects, topics such as the rule of law, digitalisation and climate change were found to be of common interest and could be the subject of further cooperation.



ELI President Met Austrian BMEIA Representative

25 February 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst and ELI Secretary General Vanessa Wilcox met representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA) Yvonne Tonic-Sorinj, Gerhard Eisl and Martin Meisel. Of special interest to the BMEIA were ELI's three 'umbrellas' for prospective projects, namely Rule of Law, the Digital Age, and Sustainable Life and Society.



ELI President at Energy Communities Discussions

14 January 2020

ELI, its Institutional Member Schoenherr, Bernard Energy and Philippe & Partners organised a stimulating debate on 'Energy Communities 2020+ Legal, Regulatory and Corporate Framework'. The Conference aimed at presenting and examining the concept of energy communities and at outlining potential adjustments to the legal and regulatory framework. ELI President, Christiane Wendehorst also delivered a speech.



ELI Second Vice-President at the HCCH CGAP

3 March 2020

ELI Second Vice-President Pascal Pichonnaz represented the Institute, which is an Observer to the Hague Conference on Private International Law's (HCCH) Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP), at the CGAP meeting that took place in The Hague. A further topic of mutual interest on the agenda was the protection of adults in international situations



ELI First Vice-President at JIWP Conference

15 February 2020

ELI First Vice-President represented the Institute at the Conference on the International Project on Judicial Independence organised by the International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP) and held at the University of Potsdam. During the Conference First Vice-President Thomas, besides raising ELI's relevant work, made a presentation on Artificial Intelligence and the Judiciary.



ELI President Met European Parliament Liaison

23 June 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst and ELI Interim Secretary-General Bea Verschraegen held an online meeting with Frank Piplat, Head of the European Parliament Liaison office in Austria. During the discussion, the ELI representatives were able to update Mr Piplat on the current activities of ELI, especially its most recent publications.



ELI President Met ELSA Presidents

24 June 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst and Interim Secretary-General Bea Verschraegen met with outgoing President of the European Law Schools Association (ELSA), Diomidis Afentoulis, and the incoming President for ELSA Austria Deni Peeva. They discussed, inter alia, ELSA's plans for the new year, especially relating to the Rule of Law campaigns and AI-related initiatives.



ELI President and Vices Met European Commissioner for Justice

26 June 2020

A meeting was held remotely between ELI President Christiane Wendehorst and Vice-Presidents Lord John Thomas and Pascal Pichonnaz and European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders and members of his cabinet. Several topics were discussed, with a clear focus on the upcoming first 'Annual Rule of Law Report'.



ELI President and Vices Met Commission's Vice-President

30 June 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst and ELI Vice-Presidents Lord John Thomas and Pascal Pichonnaz had a video call with European Commission's Vice-President Věra Jourová. The meeting focused on the topic of the rule of law and other fundamental values that form the basis of the European integration.



ELI President Met Austrian Minister for Justice

1 July 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst held a remote meeting with the Austrian Minister for Justice, Alma Zadić. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to present the history, aims and work of ELI to Minister Zadić.



ELI President and Vices Met Head of Cabinet

7 July 2020

A remote meeting was held between Kim Jørgensen, Head of the Cabinet of Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President of the European Commission, and the ELI leadership (Christiane Wendehorst, Lord John Thomas, Pascal Pichonnaz and Anne Birgitte Gammeljord). The meeting allowed for a discussion of the avenues in which ELI and the European Commission can continue to interact closely, including the role of the ELI in public consultations.



ELI President at the ULCC Annual Conference

13 August 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst participated in the Annual Meeting of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada (ULCC) held online. At this year's conference the Civil Section focused on four topics: Unauthorised Disclosure of Intimate Images; Court Jurisdiction and Proceedings Transfer Act; Electronic Wills and Powers of Attorney and Benevolent and Community Crowdfunding.



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ELI President at the UNIDROIT Governing Council

23–25 September 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst opened the International Workshop Webinar on the ELI-UNIDROIT Model Rules of Civil Procedure that was held as a closing event of the 99th Session of the UNIDROIT Governing Council.



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ELI President Presented the ELI Response on the White Paper

9 October 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst presented the ELI Response to the public consultation on the White Paper: On Artificial Intelligence – A European approach to excellence and trust at the panel on 'An Ecosystem of Trust – Do it right!' during the Second European AI Alliance Assembly organised by the European Commission.



ELI Second Vice-President at Tech Law Clinics Webinar

6 November 2020

ELI Second Vice-President, Pascal Pichonnaz, participated in the Tech Law Clinics Dissemination Event on 'How to Address AI Challenges in the Current Legal Framework?'. Pichonnaz held a presentation entitled 'Between technological understanding and legal mastery: don't throw the baby out with the bath water'.



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ELI President at ERA Meeting

30 September 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst participated in the meeting of members of the Academy of European Law (ERA) Board of Trustees working group on data protection law, Artificial Intelligence and new technologies.



ELI President Presented a Study at a DG Connect Event

23 October 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst presented a study on 'Safety and liability related aspects of software' which also included aspects of the ELI response to the public consultation on the White Paper: 'On Artificial intelligence – A European approach to excellence and trust' at an event organised by the European Commission's DG Connect.



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ELI President Spoke at the 6th Internationale Wirtschaftsrechtstage

12 November 2020

ELI President Christiane Wendehorst gave presented the ALI-ELI Principles for a Data Economy and spoke about Data Transactions in the EU and in the USA during the 6th Internationale Wirtschaftsrechtstage, which were organised by the Deutsche Anwalt Akademie.

ELI Newsletter

In 2020, the following personalities contributed to the covers of our Newsletter. ELI's Newsletter goes out to more than 2,500 readers. To sign up please register by sending an e-mail to the [ELI Secretariat](#).

Previous editions of the Newsletter are available to download on the News & Events section of the ELI [website](#).



Newsletters



January–February

Richard L. Revesz

Director of the ALI



March–April

Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos

President of the European Court of Human Rights



May–June

Pál Sonnevend

Dean of the Faculty of Law, Eötvös Loránd University



Eötvös Loránd University



July–August

Didier Reynders

European Commissioner for Justice



September–October

Ignacio Tirado

Secretary-General of UNIDROIT



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Seasonal Greetings

Dear esteemed ELI Members and friends,
2020 has been a remarkable year in many respects. Our thoughts are with those for whom it has brought suffering, our hopes rest on the human community spirit it has sparked and the achievements and strengthening our activities in the next year.
We wish you an enriching festive season and a happy New Year filled with health, happiness, and success.
Warmest winter wishes

Christiane Wendehorst
President
Lord John Thomas
First Vice-President
Pascal Pichonnaz
Second Vice-President



November–December

Christiane Wendehorst, Lord

John Thomas, Pascal Pichonnaz





ELI Timeline



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ELI Timeline

2011

On 31 May 2011, the University of Vienna won the tender to host the ELI Secretariat.



On 1 June 2011, the Inaugural Congress of ELI took place in Paris.

On 17 November 2011, then Commissioner of Justice Viviane Reding opened the ELI Secretariat.



2012

The first ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Brussels from 28 to 29 September 2012.

In September 2012, the ELI Statement on the Proposal for a Regulation on a Common European Sales Law was published.

In July 2012, the ELI published its first Statement: Case-Overload at the European Court of Human Rights.

2013

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Vienna from 4 to 6 September 2013.



2014

In February 2014, ELI published the Statement Response to the European Commission's Public Consultation on the Review of the EU Copyright Rules.

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Zagreb from 24 to 26 September 2014.



2015

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Vienna from 2 to 4 September 2015.



In February 2015, the agreement by the University of Vienna was extended until 2019.



In December 2014, ELI published a Statement on Collective Redress and Competition Damages Claim.



2016**2017**

In **September 2016**, ELI published a Statement on the European Commission's proposed Directive on the Supply of Digital Content to Consumers.

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Ferrara **from 7 to 9 September 2016**.



In **April 2017**, ELI published its first Instrument: Draft Legislative Proposal for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts of Jurisdiction in Criminal Matters in the European Union.

In **September 2017**, the ELI Instrument on Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law was published.

In **September 2017**, the ELI Statement on Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants and the Rule of Law was published.

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Vienna **from 6 to 8 September 2017**.

**2018**

In **June 2018**, the ELI Statement on the Principled Relationship of Formal and Informal Justice through the Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution was published.

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Riga **from 5 to 7 September 2018**.



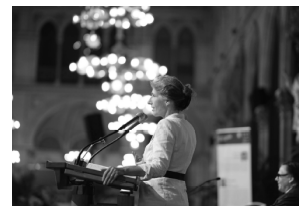
In **November 2018**, the agreement by the University of Vienna was extended until 2023.

**2020****2019**

In **February 2020**, ELI published its Model Rules on Online Platforms.

In **September 2019**, the ELI Instrument on Empowering European Families: Towards More Party Autonomy in European Family and Succession Law was published.

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Vienna **from 4 to 6 September 2019**.



In **March 2020**, the ELI Report on Protection of Adults in International Situations was published.

In **May 2020**, the ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis were published.

In **August 2020**, the Model European Rules of Civil Procedure were approved by the ELI Membership.

The ELI Annual Conference and General Assembly took place online **from 8 to 11 September 2020**.

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ELI in Vienna

The Secretariat of ELI, which is hosted by the University of Vienna, is located in the heart of the Austrian capital, close to the main building of the University, the representation of the European Commission in Austria as well as the information office of the European Parliament.

We cordially invite you to visit us whenever you are in Vienna.



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