

Minutes of the Family and Succession Law SIG Meeting

Friday 7 September, 14:30 – 16:00

Venue: Conference Hall, University of Latvia, Riga (Latvia)

Present:

Chair: Bargelli, Elena
Members: Kruger, Thalia
Scherpe, Jens
Schrama, Wendy
Wiedemann, Denise

The meeting commenced at 14:35.

I. Pisa Workshop (7 June 2018)

- (1) Elena Bargelli reported that the agenda of the workshop included several distinguished participants. The presentations on the whole were very good. Jens Scherpe and Wendy Schrama confirmed the positive feedback. However, attendance could have been higher. In the future more efforts should be devoted to advertise the SIG's initiatives and communicated to experts in the fields.
- (2) The quality of the content dealt with at the Workshop prompted Denise Wiedemann to suggest the possibility of publishing a book with the papers presented during the Workshop. Elena Bargelli replied that a call for chapters addressed (also) to the speakers of the workshop is currently open (see II.).

II. Follow-up Book

- (3) Elena Bargelli reported that after the successful workshop in Pisa the idea arose to publish an edited collection of papers bringing together contributions on how national family and succession laws and European Private International Law influence each other. 'Family law, succession law and private international law – adapting to change' is the tentative title. Elena Bargelli and Jens Scherpe will co-edit the volume.
- (4) Elena Bargelli further reported that the book will rely on submissions from the attendees of the workshop (in the first place) and that the deadline for the submissions of the abstracts is November 2018. The book is expected to be published within the end of 2019.
- (5) As to the choice of the publisher, Elena Bargelli pointed out that Intersentia has an outstanding European Family Law Series and is therefore recognized as the leading publisher in family law. The attendees of the meeting agreed. Elena Bargelli informed that Intersentia

has already been approached and shown interest. However, a proper book proposal will be presented once all the abstracts will be delivered.

- (6) Finally, the issue of the ELI logo on the book cover was discussed. As the SIG proceedings are not following the ELI projects approval by ELI bodies, this will have to be clearly stated (SIG logo, disclaimer).

III. 2019 Event

- (7) Elena Bargelli said that a SIG's event should take place every year. Schrama offered to host a SIG workshop in 2020. Scherpe advanced the idea of organizing an event in Cambridge in 2019. If it will not be the case, a workshop in Pisa could be potentially organized once again.

IV. Role and activity of the SIG

- (8) Being a general forum for exchanging information, particularly about the different national jurisdictions.
 - i. Elena Bargelli observed that so far this did not work properly. A possible solution would be to appoint specific people from each jurisdiction that would be responsible for preparing a brief report on important developments in the law in their jurisdiction.
 - ii. Elena Bargelli invited the attendees to approach people being able to be added to the mailing list, expanding the reach of the group, with the reminder that membership in SIGs is open only to ELI members, but that that did not apply to the mailing list.
 - iii. Elena Bargelli reminded the importance of recruiting top professionals in order to enrich the SIG and the debates.
- (9) **Serving as a source** for potential ELI projects
 - iv. E. B. reminded that SIG's events and activities should be used preliminarily as brainstorming sessions for suggesting future ELI projects.
 - v. In order to prepare a good project proposal, enlarging and strengthening of the SIGs network is essential. This would improve the foundation of the team and the subsequent work. ELI's projects arise from individual initiatives where there is a group of people willing to contribute.

V. Any other business

- (10) The issue of the name of the SIG was discussed. More precisely, the question arose whether embracing family and succession is too much. One of the participants proposed the name 'Family and Law' as potentially more adequate.

(11) A potential topic of interest to work on further might was suggested by Scherpe, namely legal gender, in the light of the recent developments in Germany and Austrian law, where non-gender option has been introduced as a new category.

Meeting ended at 15:35.