



ELFA President Report 2021-2022

In consideration of ELFA's Articles of Association and in keeping with tradition, I have outlined below areas to which ELFA has turned its attention during my term as President with a view to seeking your approval to close the 2021-2022 year.

Our last AGM was on 23 June 2021. In the year to date, the ELFA Board has held two meetings, both online: on 13 January 2022 and on 8 March 2022.

In the main, the meetings dealt with the preparation of this year's AGM and with ELFA's participation in the SEALS annual conference in July 2022. On 8 March 2022, the Board issued a Statement on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and agreed to exempt Ukrainian members from payment of the 2022 membership fees.

The current edition of the ELFA Award, coordinated by Laurence Gormley, ran from September 2021 until March 2022. The winner will be announced on 21 April 2022 during the ELFA conference.

On 31 July 2021, ELFA also joined online the South Eastern Association of Law Schools conference in the US, where we shared ELFA teachers' experience of teaching in the Covid era focusing on methodology, financing and cooperation between universities. ELFA was represented by: Manuel Bermejo, Jivko Draganov, Michele Graziadei and Marek Grzybowski.

Since July 2021, ELFA has received membership applications from five universities. They are:

1. SPAIN, University of Alcalá de Henares, Law Faculty
2. KOSOVO, University "Isa Boletini" – Mitrovica
3. NORTH MACEDONIA, International VISION University, Faculty of Law
4. POLAND, WSB University in Gdansk
5. GEORGIA, Caucasus International University

At present, four applications are pending approval.

One university (SPAIN, Universidad de Oviedo, Law Faculty) has cancelled its membership, and small group of universities, approximately half a dozen, have not paid their fees as yet and are likely to trigger application of Article 16 of ELFA's statute, which stipulates withdrawal after two years.

As in the last 2 years, ELFA has supported the publication of the European Journal of Legal Education, a platform for teachers of law to share their research and for ELFA to promote legal

education. The third issue of the journal has appeared online and ELFA will be hosting an EJLE panel discussion during the conference on 21 April.

The Journal scores on three fronts. First, it provides a platform for lectures and educators in law sciences to share their ideas and experiences, which is after all the avowed aim of our association. Secondly, it raises ELFA's profile in a crowded and deafening world of academia where countless players – some of questionable quality – are clamouring for attention. The value added for a reader is that we put our names and reputation, and the names and reputation of our universities behind what appears in the pages of the journal. Thirdly, by being available through a link on our website the journal legitimizes, in a sense, and adds weight to the activities of our association.

It was a second year when the COVID pandemic has severely restricted our activities and reduced opportunities for expanding contact and cooperation. A further level of uncertainty has been added by an unstable geopolitical situation in Europe this year. ELFA hopes to resume a more regular schedule of activities once the situation clears up.

In concluding, I would like to say that it has been a singular honour to lead our association in the past 12 months and retain the confidence and interest of our members and a number of outstanding legal experts and researchers in ELFA's mission. A special word of thanks is due to Milagros Orozco Hermoso, who has enforced agendas, monitored deadlines and legal compliance. Likewise, the commitment and passion put into the editing and publishing of the EJLE deserves a mention. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Greta Bosch, editor in chief, and all members of the editorial board. Last but not least, I wish to acknowledge the support and feedback I have received from ELFA's board of directors. It only remains for me to express hope that the new year will bring fewer challenges and that we will return to our normal mode of proceedings as soon as the current pressures ease.

Marek Grzybowski

President

European Law Faculties Association