

## **ELFA President Report 2023-2024**

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, seeking your approval to close the 2023-2024 year.

I am pleased to deliver this report at the presence of delegates from ELFA Members representing twenty-nine countries from across four continents, at the closing of a Conference with an attendance of over one hundred and thirty distinguished Rectors, Deans and Colleagues.

Our last AGM was on 14 April 2023 in Lausanne. In the year to date, ELFA board of directors has held four meetings, three online (30 May 2023, 11 September 2023, and 18 January 2024) and one in person in Milan on 27 November 2023.

In the main, the meetings dealt with the preparation of this year's Conference and AGM, the ongoing activities and new projects of the association, and its collaboration with other associations, including the South-Eastern Association of Law Schools conference (SEALS), the American Association of Law Schools (AALS), the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS), the Council of Europe, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), the European Law Students Association (ELSA) and the Law Schools Global League (LSGL).

In the last week of July 2023, Former President of ELFA, Andreas Ziegler, participated in the SEALS conference in the US. The relationship with the other institutions mentioned above were maintained and strengthened and a new collaboration with the Law Schools Global League (LSGL) has developed.

ELFA's vitality continues to attract new members. I have the pleasure to welcome the members that have entered or resumed membership of the Association since April 2023:

1. Lyon Catholic University (May 2023)
2. Universidad San Pablo CEU (May 2023, renewal)
3. Cyprus International University (May 2023)
4. University of East Sarajevo, Faculty of Law (June 2023)
5. Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza (July 2023)
6. IE University Law School (September 2023)
7. University of Sheffield, School of Law (renewal, October 2023)
8. Universidad de los Andes, Faculty of Law (December 2023)
9. Lutsk National Technical University, Faculty of Business and Law (December 2023)
10. Grigol Robakidze University (renewal, December 2023)
11. Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, School of Business and Social Sciences (February 2024)
12. Université Côte d'Azur - EUR LexSociété (February 2024)
13. Baku State University, Faculty of Law (January 2024)
14. University of Galway, School of Law (March 2024)
15. Universidad de la República, Faculty of Law (March 2024)

A similar number of law schools have not paid their fees yet and are likely to trigger application of Article 16 of ELFA's statute, which stipulates withdrawal after two years of non-payment.

ELFA has continued the publication of the European Journal of Legal Education (EJLE), a platform for high quality research on legal education that offers ELFA members and legal educators and researchers more broadly a recognized space to share their insights on legal education.

EJLE is pivotal for ELFA to foster research on issues that core to the mission of the association. In April 2024, together with the LSGL, ELFA, following the theme of this year's conference, is launching a special issue of the EJLE on Global Legal Education. The call for papers is now open with submissions invited by 1 September 2024, with a view to publication in the early months of 2025. The commitment and passion put into the editing and publishing of the EJLE deserves a mention, as well as their enthusiasm for this new collaborative endeavour. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Greta Bosch, editor in chief, and all members of the editorial board.

The current edition of the ELFA Award, coordinated by Laurence Gormley, ran from September 2023 until March 2024. The winners will be announced on 18 April 2023 during the ELFA conference. Our appreciation and gratefulness go to Laurence Gormley who continues to coordinate the ELFA Award, and to all members of the jury.

The European Jurist Project was relaunched in the academic year 2023-24 with a pilot seminar at the University of Toulouse, under the leadership of Lukas Rass-Masson (ELFA Board). The seminar benefitted from the participation of teachers from ELFA Members.

In concluding, I would like to say that it has been a privilege and honour to lead our association in the past twelve months and retain the confidence and interest of our members, welcome new members, initiate new projects and engage outstanding legal experts and researchers in ELFA's mission.

A special thanks is due the Secretary of ELFA, Milagros Orozco Hermoso, for her enduring commitment. Her hard work enables the day-to-day business of the association to run smoothly.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the support and feedback I have received from ELFA's board of directors, and from ELFA's former President Andreas Ziegler, not only during the past twelve months but also during my seven-year period as member of the board of directors. I am sincerely grateful and honoured to have served the association along such wonderful colleagues. I am sure the new President will be successful in bringing ELFA and its members further and continue my work and that of all my predecessors. In this spirit I submit this report for your approval.

**Edinburgh 19 April 2024**

**Professor Verónica Ruiz Abou-Nigm**

President

European Law Faculties Association