

ACTIVITY REPORT

September 2023-September 2024



The Inaugural Ceremony of the EPLO Rome Office

In the presence of three Presidents of the Republic, Italy, Greece, and Bulgaria

22 May 2024

Palazzo Altamps, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome, Italy



REGIONAL OFFICES - BRANCHES

Three Presidents of the Republic at the Inaugural Ceremony of the EPLO Office in Rome

Inaugural Ceremony

22 May 2024, EPLO Rome Office

The European Public Law Organization organized the official opening of its Office in Rome, Italy, on 22 May 2024 in the presence of three active Presidents of the Republic (of Italy, Greece, and Bulgaria) and of the former President of Cape Verde along with numerous Embassy representatives, Ministers, academics and jurists.

The Inaugural Ceremony was hosted at the magnificent Palazzo Altemps, at the theater of the Museo Nazionale Romano where the EPLO Rome Office is also seated. The inauguration ceremony also boasted the presence of esteemed jurists, distinguished professors, and representatives from prominent international organizations.



H.E. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic; H.E. Katerina Sakellariopoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic.
Professor S. Flogaitis welcoming H.E. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic

H.E. Mr. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic, H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca, former President of the Republic of Cape Verde, and His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Italy and Exarch of Southern Europe, Policarpo graced the event with their presence.

The event was also honored with the presence of the following Ambassadors in Italy: **Sonia Silvia Brito Sandoval**, Ambassador of the Multinational State of Bolivia, **Sébastien Foumane**, Ambassador of Cameroon, **Yiorgos Christofides**, Ambassador of Cyprus, **Chévez Efrén Arnoldo Bernal**, Ambassador of El Salvador, **Eleni Sourani**, Ambassador of Greece, **Saywan Barzani**, Ambassador of Iraq, **Samuel Tamba Musa**, Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and the Ambassador of Tahiti to Italy. Also, the Ambassadors to the Holy See and the Vatican: **Boris Sahakyan**, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia, **Oh Hyun Joo**, Ambassador of Korea, **Georgios Poulidis**, Ambassador of Cyprus, **Aikaterini - Katia Georgiou**, Ambassador of Greece, **Augusto Jiménez Dubón**, Ambassador of Honduras, **Sigita Maslauskaitė-Mažylienė**, Ambassador of Lithuania, and **Rajae Naji**, Ambassador of Morocco. Ambassador **Andreas Mavroyiannis**, a member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations and former permanent representative of Cyprus to the United Nations attended the event as well.

Mr. Josip Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, also honored the EPLO with his presence in the ceremony. From the Ministry of Culture of the Italian Republic, **Mr. Francesco Gilioli**, Head of Cabinet of the Minister, **Mr. Edoardo Zannoli** and **Ms. Francesca Agostino** from the official Cabinet, **Mr. Giorgio Carlo Brugnoli**, Deputy Head of the Minister's Cabinet, **Mr. Clemente Contestabile**, Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister of Culture and **Mr. Massimo Osanna**, Director General of Museums, participated in the ceremony. **Prof. Daria de Pretis**, Vice-President emerita of the Italian Constitutional Court presided over the opening ceremony panel. Speakers of the opening ceremony included **Prof. Giuliano Amato**, President Emeritus of the Italian Constitutional Court and former Prime Minister of the Italian Republic; **Prof. Sabino Cassese**, former Judge of the Italian Constitutional Court; **Mr. Francesco Gilioli**, Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Culture of the Italian Republic, **Prof. Stéphane Verger**, Director of Museo Nazionale Romano; and **Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis**, Director of EPLO.



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Ceremony: Professor S. Flogaitis and Professor S. Verger of the Museo Nazionale Romano on their opening speech



Opening Ceremony Panel presided by Professor D. de Pretis. Vice-President emerita of the Italian Constitutional Court. Speakers: Professor G. Amato, President Emeritus of the Italian Constitutional Court and Professor S. Cassese, Judge Emeritus of the Italian Constitutional Court



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference – Introductory remarks by H.E. Rumen Radev, President of Bulgaria

Conference on the Reform of the State 22 May 2024, EPLO Rome Office

The EPLO held its Inaugural Conference to celebrate the opening of its Rome Office at Palazzo Altemps – Museo Nazionale Romano, which also houses the EPLO Institute for Global Health Emergencies Response. The conference, themed “*Reform of the State in the Light of New Challenges*”, addressed contemporary crises and public policy. Key topics included migration, climate change, global security, public health emergencies, and digital state transformation, highlighting their impact on national and international policies, particularly in cultural heritage sectors.

Discussions emphasized the rise in global migration, now 3.6% of the world population, and the role of climate change and health issues in challenging national welfare systems. The COVID-19 pandemic exemplified the strain on governance, prompting a digital shift in public services and reflections on future EU policies. Cultural heritage faced accessibility challenges during the pandemic, leading to innovative opportunities in protection and promotion. The conference explored how public policies and laws can adapt to these evolving challenges, fostering resilience and innovation in governance.

The conference is comprised of four panels of discussion:

The **first session** on the climate crisis was chaired by **Mr. Luigi Carbone**, President of the Chamber, Italian Council of State, and both **Mr. Fabio Venuti**, Head of Cabinet, Office of the Director-General of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, and **Mr. George Kremlis**, Member of the Board of Directors, EPLO Ambassador to Bulgaria, Director of the Climate and Circular Economy Institute, EPLO, intervened as **panelists**.



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - First panel on Climate Crisis

In the **second session**, focused on regional approaches to migration and asylum policy and chaired by **Prof. Mario Savino** of Tuscia University of Viterbo, participants in the event had the honor of hearing insights from two distinguished special guest speakers. **H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca**, former President of the Republic of Cape Verde, shared his perspective, enriching the discussions with his experience and knowledge. Additionally, **H.E. Mr. Josip Brkić**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of

Bosnia and Herzegovina and a member of the EPLO Board of Directors, also contributed as a special guest speaker, further enhancing the depth of the dialogue.



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca and Mr. Josip Brkić - Special guest speakers



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - Second Panel on Regional approaches to migration and asylum policy

In this second session, **Prof. Kristin Fabbe**, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, **Mr. Vincent Cochetel**, Special Envoy for the Western & Central Mediterranean Situation, **Mr. Gianluca Rocco**, Director of the International Organization for Migration Mission in Greece, and **Dr. Markos Karavias**, Director, Mediterranean Migration Policy and Asylum Hub, EPLO, participated as **panelists**.

The **third session** on health issues and pandemics was chaired by **Prof. Giulio Napolitano** from Roma Tre University. **Prof. Matteo Gnes**, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Director of IGHER, EPLO, **Prof. Enrico Giovannini**, Tor Vergata University, former Minister of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility, Italian Republic, and **Prof. Maria De Benedetto**, Roma Tre University, intervened as **panelists**.



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - Third panel on health issues and pandemics

The **fourth session** on cultural heritage policies in times of change was chaired by **Prof. Maria Luisa Catoni** from IMT School of Advanced Studies Lucca, and both **Prof. Massimo Osanna**, Director-General of Museums, Ministry of Culture, University of Naples Federico II and **Prof. Mark Thatcher**, Luiss University, joined as **panelists**.



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - Fourth panel on cultural heritage policies in times of change

EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - Piano concert by Korina Legaki and Georgios Andreou

The conference concluded with final remarks provided by **Prof. Sabino Cassese**, Judge Emeritus of the Italian Constitutional Court, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, and President of the European Scientific Council, EPLO, followed by a piano concert by composer **Georgios Andreou**, accompanied by the voice of **Korina Legaki**.



EPLO Rome Office Inaugural Conference - Final remarks by Professor Sabino Cassese

ONE Health Conference 11 May 2024, EPLO Rome Office

On 11 May 2024, the EPLO, in collaboration with the Global Pandemic Network, hosted the second day of the “One Health International, supranational, regional and national experiences” conference at the Palazzo Altemps Theater. The Global Pandemic Network, a community of scholars worldwide, aims to foster interdisciplinary debates, research, and webinars on the legal, economic, and social aspects of pandemics.

The conference featured distinguished panelists, including **Prof. Bernardo Giorgio Mattarella**, Director of the EPLO Rome Office, **Prof. Matteo Gnes**, Director of the EPLO Institute for Global Health Emergencies Response (IGHER), **Prof. Elisa Scotti**, member of the GPN steering committee and professor at the University of Macerata, and many more.



ONE Health Conference - First Panel in the Theatre of Palazzo Altemps (Rome)

Justinian Project - Kick-off meeting 23 February 2024, EPLO Rome Office

During the Board of Directors’ meeting held **last September**, the EPLO decided to take the initiative to produce translations into English of important contributions of Public Law published in the last two centuries in continental Europe. The subject of translation and publication will be books, collections of articles, and collections of judgments, in the general area of Constitutional Law and Administrative Law.

As English is becoming the only *lingua franca* for the new generations, the use of scientific contributions which marked the development and the evolution of remarkable legal schools of thought in non-English speaking countries is gradually becoming impossible, unless translated and adapted to the Anglo-Saxon legal tradition. The **project** was given the name **Justinian**, the man who made access to Roman Law possible for all, and its works are coordinated by the **Special Committee** established for the purpose, with the support of the EPLO Office in Rome. The Committee is composed of distinguished jurists from different European legal traditions but with a strong focus on comparative and global public law.

The Committee, chaired by **Prof. Sabino Cassese**, President of the European Scientific Council of the EPLO, is composed of the following professors: **Spyridon Flogaitis**, Director of EPLO, **Elisenda Malaret i García**, University of Barcelona, Spain, **Bernardo Giorgio Mattarella**, Director of EPLO Rome Office, Luiss University, Italy, **Thomas Perroud**, University Panthéon-Assas - Paris II, France, **Hans-Christian Röhl**, University of Konstanz, Germany, and **Francisco Paes Marques**, Instituto de Ciências Jurídico-Políticas – ICJP, Portugal.



Justinian Project - Special Committee's first meeting in Palazzo Altemps (Rome)

The **first meeting** of the Committee was **held on 23 February 2024**, at the EPLO Office in Rome located in the Museo Nazionale Romano - Palazzo Altemps. During the meeting, it has been discussed what books, collection of articles, and texts should be translated from major European languages (Italian, French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese) into English.



Justinian Project - Special Committee and EPLO Rome Office Staff in Palazzo Altemps Courtyard (Rome) after the meeting

Cascais Regional Branch, Portugal

The EPLO Regional Branch in Cascais has had a productive and impactful year, marked by a series of several significant activities. These efforts align with EPLO's fundamental goals of promoting the rule of law, advancing educational programs, and fostering international relations. As of January 2024, **Ambassador Ioannis Metaxas** has assumed the duties of the new Director of the Cascais Branch.

Audience by H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic **11 January 2024, Presidential Palace, Belém, Portugal**



H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic, with the EPLO GRoL Commission, at the Presidential Palace



The Regional Branch organized an audience of the members of the EPLO GRoLC by **H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of the Portuguese Republic, at the Presidential Palace. During this audience, which took place for the first time, the Commission presented and discussed with the President of the Portuguese Republic its activities and advancements in promoting the principles of the Rule of Law.

Support to the European Law and Governance School (ELGS)

1 November – 4 December 2023

Hosting two groups of Chinese students as part of the EPLO ELGS programs demonstrated the Regional Branch's commitment to educational activities. Each of the two groups of students participated in a two-week internship in Cascais respectively, an experience that provided them with invaluable practical knowledge and exposure to an international working environment.

Strengthening cooperation between the EPLO, the ELGS, and the IDP

2 July 2024

The EPLO Regional Branch in Cascais organized and hosted a fruitful meeting between **Ms. Teresa Violante, Director of the GRoL Institute**, and **Prof. Atalá Correia** from the **Brazilian Institute of Education, Development, and Research (IDP)**. The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation by developing joint activities between the EPLO and the Brazilian Institute, marking a significant step forward in international educational partnerships.

Promotion of the Master's degree in Global Rule of Law and Democracy

The Regional Branch was responsible for promoting and disseminating the information about the Master's program to legal professionals, civil servants, officials, and other interested individuals throughout Portugal. The degree shall commence in the academic year 2024-2025 and it will significantly contribute to the academic landscape. It will be provided at the Cascais campus with the support of the **Municipality of Cascais**, in cooperation with the **EPLO ELGS**, the **EPLO Institute for the Global Rule of Law**, also based in Cascais, and the **EPLO Regional Branch in Cascais**.

The EPLO Regional Branch in Cascais continues strengthening its relationship with the Portuguese authorities and other international organizations. These efforts are crucial in enhancing collaborative work and ensuring that initiatives have a broader and more profound impact. It remains committed to its mission and looks forward to another year of achievements and contributions to the rule of law and democratic governance.

EPLO Global Rule of Law Commission, or the Cascais Commission

Under the aegis of H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic

In cooperation with the United Nations system, the EPLO established the **Global Rule of Law Commission (GRoLC)** as a part of its **Global Rule of Law Initiative**, launched in 2019 at the UN Headquarters. The aim is to develop a comprehensive global concept of the Rule of Law concerning UN Universal Values and diversity. The Commission is available to all nations to provide advice and expertise on Rule of Law issues if requested. The Commission is scheduled to produce an annual report on the Rule of Law, officially presented yearly at the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly. The GRoLC comprises 20 personalities from around the world, according to the principle of geographical representation. It is chaired by **Prof. Giuliano Amato**, former President of the Constitutional Court of Italy and former Prime Minister of Italy.

During 2023-2024, the **GRoLC referred to as the Cascais Commission**, held its **3rd and 4th Sessions** to discuss and promote the principles of the Rule of Law on a global scale. In June 2024, its first annual Report on the Rule of Law in Europe was submitted to the Secretariat of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly for dissemination among the Member States.

3rd Session

11-12 January 2024, Municipality of Cascais, Portugal

The 3rd Session of the GRoLC was successfully organized and facilitated by the EPLO Regional Branch in Cascais with the support of the Municipality of Cascais. Its primary focus was the adoption of the Commission's initial Report on the Rule of Law. This comprehensive Report examines the state of the Rule of Law in Europe, outlining fundamental principles and implementations. A Master's program on Global Rule of Law and Democracy was announced, reflecting the Commission's commitment to education and advancing the Rule of Law. The EPLO founded this Master's under the auspices and the full support of the GRoLC. It aims to comprehensively provide an understanding of the Rule of Law's global impact and to explore its multifaceted aspects.



Notable guests, among them **H.E. Grigor Minasyan**, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, and **Dr. Miguel de Serpa Soares**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel, added significance to the 3rd Session.

Closing Ceremony of the 3rd Session

12 January 2024, Casa de Santa Maria, Cascais, Portugal

The two-day 3rd Session concluded with a closing ceremony at the Casa de Santa Maria, the premises of the EPLO Regional Branch in Portugal, featuring impactful remarks by **Prof. Dr. Catarina Sarmento e Castro**, Minister of Justice of the Portuguese Republic, and **Prof. Dr. Tiago Antunes**, Secretary of State for European Affairs of the Portuguese Republic. Invitations were also extended to all Embassies, Diplomatic Missions, and International Organizations accredited to the Portuguese Republic, resulting in the participation of distinguished guests. Among them were the Ambassador of Cyprus, **Elpidoforos Economou**, the Ambassador of Greece, **Vassilis Papadopoulos**, the Ambassador of Italy, **Carlo Formosa**, along with representatives from many other Embassies, such as of Angola, Brazil, Egypt, Estonia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Cape Verde.



Professor Spyridon Flogaitis, EPLO Director



Professor Giuliano Amato, former President of the Constitutional Court of Italy and former Prime Minister of Italy, during the concluding ceremony



Professor Dr. Catarina Sarmento e Castro, Minister of Justice of the Portuguese Republic



Professor Dr. Tiago Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of the Portuguese Republic

4th Session

1-2 July 2024

The 4th Session of the GRoL Commission took place in a hybrid format, ensuring the active participation of its key members worldwide. This Session primarily focused on discussing the Commission's second Rule of Law Report, with particular attention on North American Countries.

Headquarters

Athens, Greece

European Group of Public Law Annual Reunion 15-16 September 2023

The 2023 Annual Reunion of the European Group of Public Law (EGPL), themed “**Digital Transformation: Technology, Fundamental Rights, Public Administration**” took place at the EPLO premises at Legrena, Sounion. For the 34th consecutive year, public law academics, high court judges, and public law practitioners from all over the world, gathered for the Reunion of the European Group of Public Law, which serves as the European Scientific Council of the EPLO. The Conference topic was examined through four sessions. The first session explored the theme of “Technology and Fundamental Rights – Digital Constitutionalism”, the second of “Technology and Fundamental Rights – Artificial Intelligence”, and the third session of “Technology and Public Administration – Digital State”. Workshops were part of the fourth session.



Thesis Prize

During the Conference, the Thesis Prize, an award offered by the EGPL to the best doctoral or postdoctoral thesis characterized by its European dimension, was granted. The 2023 Thesis Prize was awarded jointly to two candidates: **Moritz Schramm**, for his thesis entitled “Emulated Guardians: On the Practice, Politics and Performativity of the DSA and the Oversight Board”, and **Rodolphe Royal**, for his thesis entitled “Les limites constitutionnelles à la privatisation. Etude de droit comparé (Allemagne, France, Royaume-Uni)” [“Constitutional limits to privatisation. Comparative law study (Germany, France, United Kingdom)”].



Professor Sabino Cassese
President of the European Scientific Council of
the EPLO

During this year’s Annual Reunion, the awarding ceremony of the 2022 winners took place: **Leticia Díez Sánchez**, for her thesis entitled “Integration through Law and its Discontents: Unveiling the Distributive Impact of Judge-made Law in the EU” and **Marie Padilla**, for her thesis entitled “Droit public et doctrine publiciste au RU, Regard critique sur un objet à (re)construire” [“Public Law and Publicist Doctrine in the UK, Critical Look at an Object to be (Re)Constructed”].



The award of the 2022 Thesis Prize ceremony took place during the EGPL Reunion of 2023.

The Prize was awarded jointly to two candidates: Leticia Díez Sánchez and Marie Padilla. Here with Professor Susana de la Sierra, University Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, President of this year’s Thesis Prize Committee, and Professor Sabino Cassese, President of the European Scientific Council of the EPLO



With the presence of representatives of States, Universities, Public Authorities, and International Organizations – Members of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) – the annual meeting of the EPLO Board of Directors took place a day before the EGPL Annual Reunion, at the **EPLO premises in Sounion, Greece**.

Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina Regional Branch

The EPLO's Regional Branch in Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina, is located at the **Brčko National School of Public Administration (BNSPA)** fully supported as an agency of the EPLO.

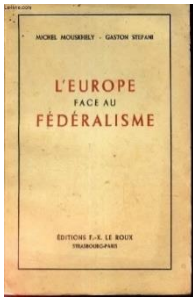
Professor Goran Marcović is the newly appointed Director
July 2024



Goran Marković (1978) is a full professor of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law, University of East Sarajevo. He has been the Dean of the Faculty since November 2018 and a member of the Senate of the University of East Sarajevo. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the EPLO since 2012. Prof. Marković has published three scientific monographs, one textbook of Constitutional Law, is a co-author of the textbook on the Constitutional Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and published more than 100 scientific articles in the country and abroad.

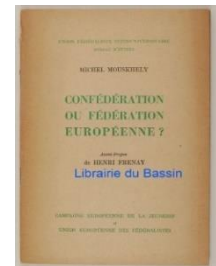
Regional Branch in South Caucasus, Georgia

Research and Education



In 2023, the Branch released a comprehensive research paper: “Evolution of the supranationalism of the European Union” based on “L’Europe face au fédéralisme” of 1949 by a French scholar and politician of Georgian origin **Michel Mouskhely** (Mikheil Muskhelishvili; 1903-1964). The work offers a unique description of legal and institutional aspects of the future Union by using the concept of so-called “non-dogmatic federalism”. The presentation of the research paper was jointly organized by the EPLO Branch and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. The publication attracted the attention of Governmental institutions and academic circles, as well as representatives of local diplomatic missions.

The Branch also studied another paper by Mikheil Muskhelishvili - “Confédération et fédération - l’antithèse”, which was published in 1952 against the background of the collapse of the treaty of the European Defense Community (EDC), subsequent nullification of the Statute of the European Political Community, etc. This paper represents an important supplementary work to the previous “L’Europe face au fédéralisme”. To this end, together with the French Embassy in Georgia, the Branch scheduled a set of educational activities, such as releasing a publication and organizing a seminar and youth contest.



On **19 September 2023**, the director of the Branch Ambassador **Ioseb Nanobashvili** presented a new guidebook of the Branch “**Party Politics in the European Union**” to students and academic staff of the Caucasus University. The guidebook offers an innovative approach to comprehending legal and institutional aspects of the functioning of the Union through European Party Politics which is being carried out at national and European levels. On **29 September 2023**, the broadcasting company Euronews-Georgia provided a comprehensive coverage of the guidebook.

In **2023**, the Branch successfully continued its “**Scholarship program**” for the Georgian civil service representatives. Twenty-three officials from the Parliament of Georgia, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the Government of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, and Tbilisi State University earned Master’s degrees in European Law and European Governance. For the academic year 2023-2024, nineteen civil servants of various governmental agencies have enrolled in the “Scholarship program”. In **2024**, the Branch extended the program to the Republic of Armenia as well. To this end, five scholarships have been offered to the Ministry of Justice of Armenia. In Georgia, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as the Ministry of Labor and Health were invited to submit their candidates for the scholarship program.

In **2023**, the Branch launched a process of **recognition of the ELGS degrees by the respective Georgian authorities**. Following recognition by the Ministry of Education and Science of Italy of the EPLO/ELGS degrees as equivalent to degrees of any University of the Italian Republic, the Branch initiated a bilateral agreement between the Government of Georgia and the EPLO on recognition of ELGS degrees by the relevant Georgian authorities. Currently, the draft agreement is under consideration by the Georgian side.

With the active engagement of the ELGS, the Branch created various “**Awareness Raising Programs**” for Georgian civil servants. In **2023**, 35 Georgian civil servants of the apparatus of the Government of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic participated in the program: “**EU Enlargement, EU membership criteria, EU accession trajectory, stages, legal and Administrative Aspects**”. The Branch created two other similar programs: “**The EU Law-making and EU legal system**” and “**EU regional policies toward its European neighborhood after the 2004 enlargement**”, and it intends to offer such Awareness Raising Programs to other state institutions, as well as local professional and social groups.

In **2023**, the Branch has been actively working with the LEPL International Education Center in order to organize a Qualification Enhancement program for employees of local municipalities of Georgia. The program, which included 15 civil servants from various municipalities, was implemented in **July 2024** at the EPLO premises in Athens and Sounion. The Qualification Enhancement program is going to become an annual event and consists of intensive courses (set of lectures), practical simulations, public lectures, and discussions. The program is run by Georgian and ELGS lecturers.

In **2023**, the Branch drafted a new Awareness Raising Program for secondary school students - **“Bring Europe into Your Classroom”**. Currently, the Branch is working with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia to introduce such a program. To this end, collaboration with the management of **“the EU Eastern Partnership school”** is of special importance.

Strengthening the European Values and Principles

In collaboration with the **EU-NATO information center**, the EPLO Branch carried out regular public lectures in various regions of Georgia. The director of the EPLO Regional Branch gave lectures to civil service representatives, teachers’ communities, and other professional groups in the municipalities of Terjola, Kareli, Sagarejo, Telavi, Lagodekhi, and other regions. The lectures were focused on important legal and institutional aspects of the EU decision-making and EU accession process.



In **2023**, in collaboration with the **EU-NATO information center**, the EPLO branch prepared a set of video lectures (<https://rb.gy/r5kyhp>; <https://rb.gy/q96ykh>) for a wide range of social and professional groups. Such a comprehensive project was the first in Georgia and unique in its scale and substance. The video lectures discuss the EU supranational model of administration, EU institutional arrangement, competence-sharing between the member states and the Union institutions, EU as a representative democracy, EU law-making and its Judicial system, etc. The project was supported by the US Embassy in Georgia.

Other activities of the EPLO Branch in Georgia: In **2023-2024**, the EPLO Branch remained in active communication with the Georgian Parliament, namely, the Parliamentary Committees for Foreign Affairs, European Integration, Youth and Sports, Human Rights, and Civil Integration. The Branch took an active part in the project initiated by the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration **“10 Years of Association, Review, the Parliament of Georgia, Committee on European Integration”**.



Turkish Ambassador **Ali Kaan Orbay**, Israeli Ambassador **Hadas Meizat**, Italian Ambassador **Massimiliano D’Antuono**, and US Ambassador **Robin L. Dunnigan**.

The Branch carries out intensive communication within Georgia, including but not limited to other local diplomatic missions, especially those representing EPLO member states, as well as various governmental, scientific, public, and private organizations. The Branch activities proved productive in building an efficient network for expanding the EPLO activities in Georgia and other regional states. In **2023-2024**, Amb. **Ioseb Nanobashvili** held productive meetings with

At the meetings, the parties confirmed that they share a common view about Georgia’s future membership to the family of European Nations and, therefore, are natural partners in contributing to Georgia’s European path. The meetings also opened new prospects for substantial and meaningful cooperation.

In **September 2023**, the Director of the Branch visited Brussels and together with the EPLD Representative in Brussels **Mr. Panos Gredis** held meetings with **Alexandros Katsanis** – Greek representative in the EU COEST;



Meeting with H.E. the Turkish Ambassador Ali Kaan Orbay



With H.E. the Israeli Ambassador Hadas Meizat



With H.E. the US Ambassador Robin L. Dunnigan



With H.E. the Italian Ambassador Massimiliano D’Antuono



With H.E. the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia Ms. Meline Arakalian

Vakhtang Makharobloshvili – Ambassador of Georgia to the EU; **Hannah Goerlich** – Head of Programme: EU and International Politics, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung; **Diana Jablonska** – Head of Unit - DG NEAR; C1 - following Georgia, Moldova. The meeting outcomes will be efficiently used in order to strengthen the EPLD positions in Georgia and other states of its presence.

On **13 December 2023**, H.E. the Latvian Ambassador **Edīte Medne** visited the EPLD Regional Branch. The two sides charted a roadmap to practical cooperation between the two diplomatic missions for the benefit of Georgia and Armenia.



With H.E. the Latvian Ambassador Edīte Medne, who visited the EPLD Regional Branch

On **23 April 2024**, the EPLD Regional Branch was delighted to host the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia **Ms. Meline Arakalian**. The two heads of the missions agreed to coordinate their actions and join their efforts in order to strengthen European Values and Principles in Georgia and raise awareness about European Law and Institutional arrangements.



As the Branch holds a regional mandate and covers Armenia (an EPLD member since 2011), in **February 2024** together with the EPLD Director **Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis**, **Ambassador Ioseb Nanobashvili** took part in the joint commission of the Ministers of Justice of Georgia and Armenia as well as in EPLD-Armenia bilateral consultations on Armenia’s constitutional reform. Given the importance of the constitutional process for both parties, the Branch continues regular communication with the Armenian side as well as international partners on the ground, such as the UNDP and EU Embassy in Yerevan. A comprehensive article about the

activities of the Branch in Georgia and Armenia was published in the “*Diplomat*” Magazine, **February-March 2024**. In the interview, Director **Nanobashvili** spoke about EPLD-Georgia relations, as well as ongoing and future joint projects.

On **9 May 2024**, the Branch was honored to be invited to the celebration of Europe Day organized by the EU Embassy in Georgia. The EPLD Regional Director **Amb. Ioseb Nanobashvili** congratulated the EU Ambassador in Georgia **Pawel Herczynski** and reconfirmed the EPLD’s commitment to closely work with European Partners for strengthening European values and standards in the country and beyond.

Capítulo Brasileiro (Brazilian Chapter)

The Brazilian Chapter of the EPLO is considering expanding its collaboration with the **IDP Brazilian Institute** for Public Law in Brasilia. The first cooperation between IDP and EPLO was the visit of a group of 11 students and a professor of the branch of the IDP in Portugal in **May 2024**.

The EPLO-IDP collaboration foresees the academic exchange of students and professors between the two institutions including, in particular, the Organization's branches in Portugal and Italy. The results of this fruitful cooperation provide grounds for positive official relations between Brazil and EPLO **given the admission of Brazil as a member state**.



2024 ELGS Training program on “Current Challenges in Democracy” for IDP students.
In the second-row visit to the Hellenic Parliament

EPLO MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

EPLO Mission to the UN in New York

The EPLO Mission to the United Nations represents EPLO and serves as the EPLO delegation to the United Nations headquarters in New York. The Mission seeks to promote the values of peace, human rights, solidarity, and the rule of law around the globe and in a fruitful dialogue of cultures. Following the **resolution A/73/462 “Observer status for the European Public Law Organization in the General Assembly”** - adopted unanimously on 1 November 2018 - EPLO was invited to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly. EPLO's appointment to Observer Status was the outcome of a long process initiated under the aegis of Portugal. The Permanent Mission of EPLO to the UN is headed by Permanent Representative and **Ambassador Barbara Faedda**, Ph.D., who presented her credentials to UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** on **21 May 2019**.

As usual, in **September 2023** EPLO attended the high-level General Debate of the 78th General Assembly, during which world leaders gathered to engage in the debate under the theme **“Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all.”**

Announcement of the first Report of the Global Rule of Law Commission 6-7 October 2023

During the Sixth Committee plenary meeting, EPLO legal counselor **Luca Melchionna** announced the completion of the **First Report of the Global Rule of Law Commission** and presented an executive summary of the report. Among its various activities and initiatives, the legal counselor's office has been closely observing the formation and works of the first UN High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Between **October and November 2023**, the HLAB was formed, and in **December 2023**, the Board issued the first interim report (Governing AI for Humanity) focusing on how the use of AI can help at the international level with a focus on humanity. AI can support healthcare systems, economies, innovation, climate change, and sustainability. However, if not properly governed, AI can bring societal harm through bias, disinformation, misinformation, surveillance, and IP infringement, just to name a few. AI and the Rule of Law are also intimately interconnected and play a fundamental role at a private and public level. On the one hand, AI can support and boost governments and their economies; on the other hand, it can also be a risk for young democracies, their justice systems, and human rights protection. The office of EPLO UN's legal counselor is actively involved in the AI framework regulatory environment at various levels (privately and publicly), so that EPLO's goals and initiatives can be connected to the numerous AI normative developments.

Global Rule of Law Commission Side Event 30 November 2023

The EPLO - which launched its Global Rule of Law Initiative in 2019 at the UN Headquarters - organized a side event to inform states about the activities and initiatives of the Global Rule of Law Commission and to explain its usefulness and program for states. It was conducted in the presence of two UN Under-Secretary-Generals, **Mr. Miguel De Serpa Soares**, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel, who addressed the event, and **Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. The keynote speaker was the President of the Global Rule of Law Commission, **Prof. Giuliano Amato**, President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court, and former Prime Minister of the Italian Republic. The event was endorsed and supported by 14 states and was honored by the presence of a great number of esteemed participants. The event was chaired and moderated by **Ambassador Barbara Faedda**, Permanent Observer of EPLO to the United Nations NYC.

On **8 March 2024**, **Ambassador Barbara Faedda** was invited to attend the Observance of International Women's Day (IWD) in the ECOSOC Chamber at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Observance was opened by **H.E. Mr. António Guterres** and included statements from **H.E. Sima Bahous**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, and other high-level United Nations dignitaries.

On **6 May 2024**, **Ambassador Barbara Faedda** also attended the **SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024**, which featured statements by **H.E. The President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella**, **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, UN Deputy Secretary-General, and **Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, among others.



At the panel: **Amb. B. Faedda**, EPLO Permanent Representative to the UN NY, **Mr. Miguel De Serpa Soares**, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel, **Professor Giuliano Amato**, President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court of Italy, former Prime Minister, **Amb. Evangelos Sekeris**, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN in New York, and **Professor Spyridon Flogaitis**, EPLO Director



On 7 May 2024, EPLO, represented by **Ambassador Barbara Faedda** and Legal Counselor **Luca Melchionna**, attended the formal plenary meeting of the General Assembly to hear the address by **H.E. The President of the Republic of Italy, Sergio Mattarella**, focused on the subject “Italy, United Nations, and Multilateralism – Tackling common challenges”. Ambassador Barbara Faedda met with President Sergio Mattarella and briefly discussed about EPLO’s activities at the United Nations.



Amb. Faedda with H.E. The President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella at the United Nations on 7 May 2024



H.E. The President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella at United Nations Headquarters in NYC (photo taken from the EPLO seat)

On 12 June 2024, the Secretariat of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly circulated the First Report of the EPLO’s Global Rule of Law Commission (GRoLC) to all Sixth Committee delegates.

EPLO Mission to the UN in Geneva

EPLO serves as an observer organization at the UN and other bodies in Geneva. Its Geneva Office undertakes a wide range of activities, engaging extensively with various international and national entities.

In summary, observer IGOs at the UN participate in a wide range of activities that enable them to contribute to the work of the UN, advocate for their interests, and collaborate with member states and other stakeholders to address global challenges.

Internships at the Geneva Office

The EPLO Office offers internships to a diverse group of young individuals, providing them with opportunities to further their educational goals and gain a deeper understanding of how the Human Rights Council (HRC) operates.

Activities at the Geneva Office

In alignment with the diverse activities of our office, **Ambassador George Papadatos** has actively participated in several significant side events and initiatives:

Exclusive Event on Gulf Cooperation Council Human Rights Progress

11 December 2023

This limited participation event, in which Ambassador George Papadatos attended as a guest, was organized by the Oman Presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The aim was to report on the progress of the Gulf countries' Human Rights Committees at the Palais des Nations.

“Hybrid Public Dialogue: Africa at Crossroads”

14 December 2023

Participated as a panelist at this event held at the University of Geneva's auditorium, organized by multiple NGOs.

“Women's Role in Peacebuilding in Africa”

12 March 2024

Contributed to the discussion and organization of this event hosted by IODDHR, a Geneva-based NGO.

“Water Reuse as a Pathway to Tackle Water Scarcity”

19 April 2024



Amb. George Papadatos, the Director of the Institute of Sustainable Water Management and Water Law of EPLO Professor Ioannis Katsoyiannis and Mr. Anwar Mehmood representing the International Association of Ahmadi Architects and Engineers (IAAAE) during the workshop at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva on 19 April 2024

Organized by the Geneva Office in collaboration with the EPLO Water Institute, **Amb. George Papadatos** was involved as a panelist.

Additional Contributions

Redrafting Reports and Executive Summaries

Redrafted the reports of the “Global Rule of Law Commission” and authored the “Executive Summary.”

Proposals for HRC Reform

Submitted written proposals to the President of the HRC regarding reforms for the Council.

Communicating with Ambassadors

Recently informed ambassadors, including those from EPLO member countries, with a note containing three points: proposals for HRC reform, a concept note about a side event on “The Future of Transitional Governments in Africa,” and an executive summary of the “Global Rule of Law Commission” meetings.

Cape Verde Association with EPLO

Collaborated with Cape Verde, to potentially become the first African country associated with EPLO. Initial meetings were held in Geneva with the country's Ambassador and Minister of Justice.

EPLO Mission to the UN in Vienna

During this period, the EPLO representation to the UN in Vienna participated in all major activities held and/or organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and in all major events and initiatives at the UN and international diplomatic community in Vienna. In particular, the following sessions of the principal UN bodies in Vienna were attended:

September-November 2023

- Active participation in a number of the Working Groups related to the **implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)** and **United Nations Convention against Corruption (Trafficking in Persons; Technical Assistance; International Cooperation; Asset Recovery)**.



Ambassador Ugi Zvekić at Working Groups related to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

- Participation in informal consultations of the **Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes**.

- Participation in informal discussion of the development of the **Atlanta Declaration of the Tenth Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**.

- Participation in deliberations of the draft resolutions of the **Tenth Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**; in particular, a resolution on the “Measures to address corruption involving organized criminal groups”.

2-4 December 2023

Intersessional meeting including Thematic Discussion on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration.

11-15 December 2023

Tenth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Atlanta, United States of America - online participation in the plenaries and a few side events, in particular on Global Organized Crime Index and Corruption; 12 resolutions including the one on “Measures to address corruption involving organized criminal groups” were adopted.

January-September 2024

29 January-9 February 2024

Concluding session of the **Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes**, UN in New York (online).

February-March 2024

Participation in the working groups of the **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Technical Assistance; International Cooperation)**.



Ambassador Ugi Zvekić as Guest Lecturer on “Lessons from UNCAC and UNTOC for the EU Anti-Corruption Package” at the EUVAL Web Conference

14-22 March 2024

Sixty-seven Sessions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs – presence at the High-Level Segment (14-16 March) and online.

13-17 May 2024

33rd Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; delivery of EPLO statement at the Plenary General Debate and participation in side events, in particular on “Corruption: Cause or Effect?”.



Ambassador Ugi Zvekić at the 33rd Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime



30 May 2024

Guest Lecture “Lessons from UNCAC and UNTOC for the EU Anti-Corruption Package” at the **EUVAL Web Conference** “Promotion of Public Awareness on the Fight against Transnational Crimes, the Role of Police and Judicial Cooperation and Respect for Fundamental Rights on the Process of the European Union Enlargement”, Belgrade, Serbia.

29 July-9 August 2024

Ad Hoc Committee for countering the use of ICT for criminal purposes: Reconvened concluding session (online).

28 August-6 September 2024

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Implementation Review Group, 1st resumed 15th session and Working Group on Prevention.

Other Activities

2-4 March 2024, Tirana, Albania

Participation in the events of the UN Vienna diplomatic community and various international fora in the South Eastern European region, including the International **Regional Conference of the Ministers of Justice of the Western Balkans against Corruption**.

Mission to IACA

EPLO is a party of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), since its foundation in 2011. In 2023, EPLO initiated its Mission to IACA and appointed **Ambassador David Dondua** as its permanent representative. **Amb. David Dondua** presented his letter of credence to the Dean of the Academy on 10 April 2023.

Activities:

The 12th session of the Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy

9 November 2023, VIC, Vienna

The Assembly of Parties takes place annually and serves as a major forum for Parties to consult on the overall policy of the Academy and other matters of interest under the IACA Agreement.

Graduation ceremony of the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS), International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC), and Master in Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy (MACD) Classes of 2021-2023

6 December 2023, IACA, Luxemburg

Special event - “Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Sport”

14 December 2023

The event was co-organized by IACA and Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) in the framework of the 10th session of the Conference of CoSP to the UN Convention on Anti-Corruption (EPLO participated online).

The event discussed the main risks of corruption in sports and offered effective solutions. The experts from IACA and SIGA shared best practices and innovative ideas for promoting integrity and compliance in sports and highlighted the efforts of international organizations and other stakeholders.

Webinar - SheForChange: Women, Corruption and Empowerment

8 March 2024

The event focused on how corruption hinders women’s empowerment and perpetuates inequality and it gave an insight into the transformative role women play in driving positive change and fighting corruption.

Meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Financial Matters and Other Administrative and Substantive Aspects of IACA Activities

29 May 2024, VIC, Vienna

The meeting was chaired by **Victoria Wagner** (MFA Austria). Later she was elected as a permanent chair of the IWG. Officers-in-Charge **Jaroslav Pietrusiewicz** and **Petra Susac** briefed the group about current developments, *inter alia*, the financial and staffing situation of the organization. In preparation for the next session of the Assembly of Parties, the chair called upon the parties to provide their candidacies for elective positions in the

Bureau of the Session and Board of Governors. The Secretariat distributed the food-for-thought paper "Vision for IACA's Work Programme 2025-2028".

Webinar -"Global Procurement: Breaking Barriers to Combat Corruption Through Data Exchange 3 July 2024

The Webinar delved into the complexities of global procurement and explored how sophisticated data analysis can enhance transparency and accountability. Experts discussed strategies for fostering international collaboration, overcoming legal barriers, and leveraging technology to detect and prevent corrupt practices.

Meeting with the executive officer-in-charge of IACA Mr. Jaroslaw Pietrusiewicz 25 June 2024, IACA, Luxembourg



Ambassador David Dondua with the new Dean of the IACA Academy

Meeting with the new Dean and executive secretary of IACA Prof. Slagjana Taseva 18 July 2024, IACA, Luxemburg

Discussions included ways to widen cooperation between EPLO and IACA. Emphasis was put on collaboration in the areas related to the mandates of EPLO and IACA. More specifically, designing, developing, and delivering training and learning activities, including Master's programs, in areas of reciprocal interests. Agreement to explore further the possibilities of organizing joint activities.

EPLO also actively participated in the event organized by different Vienna-based think tanks and NGOs.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

New Member of the Board of Directors of the EPLO

Vilnius University Faculty of Law became a BoD member of EPLO October 2023

Vilnius University Faculty of Law was established in 1641 by the privilege of the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Władysław IV Vasa. The Faculty of Law of VU is an inclusive environment in which top-level legal studies are conducted and international and interdisciplinary science is developed, contributing to the development of the legal culture of the country and the region. The VU TF decided on membership after a meeting with the Head of EPLO, **Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis**.



Memoranda of Understanding & Agreements

Instituto Brasileiro de Ensino, Desenvolvimento e Pesquisa (IDP) September 2023



LEPL International Education Center of Georgia-EPLO October-November 2023



LEPL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
CENTER OF GEORGIA

JINAN University (JNU), a higher education institution in China- ELGS



暨南大學
JINAN UNIVERSITY



University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Department of Law, Italy - EPLO January 2024

Supreme Court of Mexico, represented by
the Center for Constitutional Studies - EPLO
February 2024



The International Center for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CHIEAM BARI) -
EPLO



The University of Trento, Italy-EPLO
March 2024



LUMSA University, Italy - EPLO



Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority - EPLO
May 2024



The Federation of Industries of Greece - EPLO



The Balkan and Black Sea Forum-EPLO
June-July 2024



University of Teramo, Italy - EPLO



International Affairs - Protocol Office

2023-2024 Developments

Through 2023 EPLO continued to develop its international relations and extend its outreach in various parts of the world with emphasis on the African continent. In this regard, contacts have intensified with **the Republic of Cape Verde and the Republic of Sierra Leone**. In the latter case, the ELGS welcomed the first group of students under a scholarship scheme at its Legrainia Campus (SW of Athens), while preparations are underway for a second such group to arrive for the 2024-25 academic year. The strategic goal remains that of setting up an institutionalized presence in sub-Saharan Africa, a quickly developing region of the world.

The Brazilian Chapter of EPLO initiated its cooperation with the IDP Brazilian Institute for Public Law in Brazilia, hosting during last May a group of 11 students from IDP and a professor of the branch of the IDP in Portugal.

In parallel, written and oral exchanges have taken place during the time period covered by this report to start the operation of **EPLO Offices in Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Serbia**. In the first case, **the Office in Sofia** has already assumed its role with full diplomatic status. In the cases of Belgrade and Kyiv, preparations are currently underway to finalize respective internal procedures.

In order to advance the EPLO's presence as Observer in the various UN organs, a written request has been addressed to the Director General of **UNESCO** to grant Observer status to the Organization. Answer is pending.

EDUCATION

European Law & Governance School (ELGS)



ELGS
EUROPEAN
LAW & GOVERNANCE
SCHOOL

The European Law and Governance School (ELGS), the International University School of the EPLO, with **headquarters in Rome**, Italy, and campuses in **Athens**, Greece (main campus), **Cascais** (Lisbon), Portugal, and **Tbilisi**, Georgia, is committed to preparing today's youth to better serve their nations with an exceptional understanding of Europe, its institutions and promoting their national interests within the scope of EU.

Thus, the goal of the ELGS is to educate the next generation of the world's leaders, legal practitioners, and public administrators by imparting the knowledge necessary to engage in the global public sphere, transcending national frameworks and boundaries. The values underpinning the school and depicted in its logo (inspired by the 6-winged seraphim mosaic discovered in the "Aghia Sophia" are **Excellence, Service and Progress. This way the ELGS serves a Global Objective in Education.**

The ELGS ran its eighth year of classes for undergraduate degrees and its seventh year of classes for its postgraduate and research degrees. Classes are running at the premises of the EPLO in Sounion and at the Roman Agora with physical presence. After the Covid period, a hybrid model of teaching and students' attendance has been adopted for facilitating students with parallel studies and professional commitments.

2023-2024 Developments

New Master in Global Rule of Law and Democracy, Cascais Campus

The ELGS is launching a new high-level Master's degree program on "**Global Rule of Law and Democracy**" at the EPLO premises in Cascais, Portugal, starting in the 2024/2025 academic year, under the auspices and guidance of the **EPLO Global Rule of Law Commission** as well as with the support of the **Municipality of Cascais** for the premises and the accommodation facilities.

This one-year taught degree program offers specialized courses that provide an in-depth look at key issues of the Rule of Law and sharpen the comparative approach, from a national-constitutional perspective to the international level. Professors from different parts of the world will join the ELGS teaching staff to offer their expertise and experience. The program aims to equip students with theoretical knowledge of the challenges the Rule of Law faces in today's legal and political systems, as well as the skills and attributes that can be applied in their professional careers. It will mainly focus on providing an understanding of how the Rule of Law is upheld, implemented, and promoted globally. This initiative is based on the **UN System Framework**.

New International Master on European and Comparative Public Law co-organized with Sapienza University, Italy, and EPLO/ELGS



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Following the MoU with Sapienza University, a mutually agreed proposal for the launch of a new international master on European and Comparative Public Law, co-organized by Sapienza and EPLO/ELGS, has been submitted to the Department of Legal Science, Faculty of Law at Sapienza. After its final approval by the Sapienza Rectorate, the master will be announced in October and it will start in February 2025, in Rome, Italy.

Foundation course

ELGS launched a new program for prospective students: the Foundation Course for undergraduate and postgraduate studies

It is an entry route into ELGS' undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

The Foundation Course is a semester-long preparatory course conducted at the ELGS campus in Athens offered to prepare prospective students who wish to continue with their studies at the ELGS to qualify for entry in the first year of a Bachelor's or Postgraduate degree. The Foundation Course program is a bridging course designed to

equip students with the appropriate academic grounding, skills, and confidence for starting the ELGS degrees both in European Union Law and in Governance.

MoUs

2023-2024 was an extrovert year for the International University School, as ELGS/EPLO completed with success many discussions with universities, led to bilateral agreements and MoUs.

More indicatively:

ELGS/EPLO has renewed the cooperation agreements with the **University of Trento**, Faculty of Law (Italy), **Caucasus University** (Georgia), **Sapienza-Università di Roma** (Italy), while ELGS/EPLO signed new Memoranda of Understanding with **Charles University** (Czechia), **Centro de Estudios Constitucionales – SCJN** (Mexico), **Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais – UFMG** (Brazil), **Jilin International Studies University** (China), **Universidade Federal da Bahia – UFBA** (Brazil), **LEPL International Education Center of Georgia – IEC** (Georgia), **Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta – LUMSA** (Italy) and **Università di Teramo** (Italy).

Academic personnel - new call for Resident Lecturers

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the ELGS operated with **eight resident lecturers** supported by the international visiting faculty, stemming from renowned universities of the wide network of the EPLO/ELGS and also from different professional backgrounds, who offered either online or in situ, a different approach on the teaching topics.

Resident Faculty:

Prof. Nikolas Voulgaris (King’s College London, School of Law, UK), **Assoc. Prof. Valentina Rita Scotti**, (University of Siena, Italy), **Dr. Daniel Furby** (Queen Mary, University of London, UK), **Dr. Konstantina Georgaki** (University of Oxford, New College, UK), **Dr. Eugenia Kopsidi** (University of Aix Marseille, France), **Dr. Alexandros Kyriakidis** (University of Macedonia, Greece), **Dr. Taygeti Michalakea** (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences), and **Dr. Dora Papadopoulou** (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany).

International visiting faculty:

Prof. Giulia Aravantinou-Leonidi (University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Italy), **Prof. Saulo José Casali Bahia**, Federal Judge, University of Bahia (Brazil), **Prof. Anastasios Gourgourinis**, Athens Law School, Greece, **Prof. Jaap W. de Zwaan**, Erasmus University Rotterdam, **Prof. Esteban Peralta Losilla**, University of Zaragoza, Spain, **Dr. Aikaterini Perrou**, Assistant Lecturer, Athens Law School, Greece, **Dr. Isabel Maravall**, CUNEF Universidad, Spain, **Dr. Konstantinos Sidiropoulos**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, **Dr. Dimitrios Vougioukas**, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece, **Dr. Fernando Navarro Olivares**, Instituto de Estudios Europeos, Spain, **Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis**, Economist, Greece.

Moreover, ELGS ran a selection process for new Resident Lecturers for its campuses. More than 50 applications were received and after careful review and consideration as well as interviews of a shortlist, **3 new prominent scholars** will be added to the ELGS academic personnel starting in October 2024.

Dr. Eleni Apostolidou, Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Paris

Dr. Nicolaos Papadopoulos, Maastricht University

Dr. Esra Unal, University of Strasbourg

Fellowship Program



P. Spiliopoulou, Director General of EPLO Education, and **Prof. J. Handrlica**

Jakub Handrlica, Prof. JUDr DSc, Vice-Dean for Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Law, Charles University, Czech Republic, completed his fellowship program at the ELGS during which he undertook ELGS courses and he gave an open lecture on the benefits and risks of modern technologies in the legal framework of public administration; title: **“What is new with the administration of experiments in public law?”**

Esteban Peralta Losilla, Professor titular of public international law and international relations at the University of Zaragoza, spent a semester at the ELGS and contributed to the ELGS courses and projects.

Fatima Dilahan Bice-Kurtoglu, PhD candidate at Warwick Law School, spent a semester at the ELGS, working on refugees and asylum seekers' experiences in complex asylum procedures in Greece by adopting a critical perspective and using socio-legal methodologies.

Student mobility to Panthéon-Sorbonne

An LLM student from the academic year 2023/2024 applied and has been accepted for a short mobility program (September-December 2024) at the University Panthéon-Sorbonne while she is preparing her dissertation thesis.

ELGS Scholarship programs

- Scholarships granted by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic** for the 1-year ELGS study programs (Master of Studies, LLM in EU Law, and MA in Governance) are exclusively offered to Italian nationals, selected by the MFA of the Italian Republic in cooperation with the ELGS. EPLO also offered scholarships to twenty Italian (nationals or residents) students for studying at the ELGS campus in Athens both for the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

- **Full scholarships** to young scholars from the **Republic of Sierra Leone** meeting the criteria to join the ELGS were offered both for the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. For the first time, 5 students from Sierra Leone joined our School, after their selection process and visa approval, and attended the courses on our campus in Legraina.

- **Merit-based scholarships** for the undergraduate and postgraduate level were also offered by the EPLO to a limited number of students coming from EPLO Member countries and other non-European countries, including and with a special focus on Ukraine. Meetings with the Embassies of these countries took place for further disseminating the scholarships.

- Scholarships were also offered to selected students from partner universities (for studies in online mode) and Greek universities (for studies *in situ* mode) who wanted to **follow parallel studies** in the field of their interest. At the postgraduate level, scholarships were offered to **civil servants from Georgian state institutions**.

- Merit-based **partial scholarships** both for the undergraduate and postgraduate levels were also offered to other students of the ELGS.

ELGS Executive Education

The ELGS/EPLO Executive Program is an academically rigorous program, fueled by cutting-edge research and in-depth knowledge. It offers a range of executive education activities, from short courses and customized executive programs for individuals to programs created for organizations.

Shanghai Legal Study and Internship Program



Graduation Ceremony of Shanghai Legal Study and Internship Program

This tailor-made educational program attracts students from the Universities of Shanghai. In September 2023 and in September 2024 (for a third year in a row), EPLO/ELGS welcomed in Athens to its campus premises at Legraina, Sounion, ten (10) students in total from the University of Shanghai for three months. The Chinese students are offered the chance to participate in a short training program (comprised of forty (40) academic hours in total),

focused mostly on EU topics. Moreover, the students are given the opportunity to fulfill an internship program in EPLO departments and agencies. In this three-month long period, they also had the chance to spend two weeks at the EPLO premises in Cascais and in Rome.

The training program, apart from the taught classes and the internship opportunity, included other activities, such as visits to Museums and archaeological sites and tours in the Athens city center. After the successful completion of the program, in a closing ceremony, students were awarded a certificate of completion.

In this educational activity, external tutors (apart from the ELGS Resident Faculty) have been involved. Apart from the ELGS resident faculty, classes were also offered by: **Dr. Christina Zachariadou**, Tax Consultant, Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR), Greece, **Dr. Konstantinos Tsimonis**, Lecturer in Chinese Society at the Lau China Institute, King's College London, PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and **Ms. Phoebe Konstantinidi**, Tour Guide Post Scriptum.

ELGS Training program on “Current challenges in Democracy” 13-17 May 2024

The ELGS successfully organized an intensive one-week training program on “**Current challenges in Democracy**”, which was carefully designed to be offered to 12 students from the Instituto Brasileiro de Ensino, Desenvolvimento e Pesquisa (**IDP, Brazil**). The students arrived in Greece to participate to this program together with their Professor, **Paulo Castro**. The program took place at the EPLO premises in Athens and included taught classes, field trips, social events, and site visits in Athens and Sounion as well as meeting and discussion with the Ambassador of Brazil in Greece, **M. Paulo Roberto Caminha de Castilhos Franca**. This training course focused on the different and similar threats to democracy worldwide by examining one of the most pressing issues of our time: Can liberal democracy survive? To that end, broad issues of utmost importance will be addressed. The lectures were delivered by professionals of different backgrounds and nationalities such as academics, lawyers, and field officers. The following instructors were involved:

- Welcome by **Ambassador Césarío Melantonio Neto**
- **Dr. Ioannis Karkalis**, Supreme Court Justice, Greece
- **George Katrougalos**, Professor, Democritus University of Thrace, former Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Dr. Dora Papadopoulou**, Resident Lecturer at the ELGS
- **Esteban Peralta Losilla**, Professor, University of Zaragoza, Spain
- **Patricia Jonason**, Ass. Professor, Södertörn University

Qualification Enhancement program for local municipalities of Georgia: “Fundamentals of the EU Study” 8-19 July 2024



Ambassador Ioseb Nanobashvili and Prof. Andreas Pottakis discuss with the participants



The **International Education Center (IEC)** of Georgia in collaboration with the **European Public Law Organization (EPLO) / the European Law and Governance School (ELGS)** co-organized a Qualification Enhancement program for the municipalities of Georgia on “Fundamentals of the EU Study”.

Fifteen Georgian civil servants were selected by the IEC after an open procedure to participate in the program and come to Greece for two weeks. The Qualification Enhancement program took place at the EPLO premises in Athens and

Legraina, Greece. The program encompassed topics such as: The EU decision-making procedures and an institutional chain of the EU decision-making; The EU’s unique institutional set-up; European Elections; EU law-making, its implementation and monitoring; legislative competence-sharing between the EU and its member states; EU Judiciary system; EU Enlargement; EU membership criteria and accession stages; Georgia on its path toward the EU membership: 1991-2024; EU and its neighborhood after the EU “Big Bang” enlargement of 2004-2007 – Western Balkans vs post-soviet countries, etc. **Ambassador Ioseb Nanobashvili**, Regional Director of the EPLO South Caucasus Branch was the main instructor of the program and our Resident Lecturer **Dr. Dora Papadopoulou** was facilitating all the discussions. Interventions were also made by the EPLO Director, **Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis**, the Dean of the ELGS, **Luis María Díez-Picazo**, the ELGS Provost and Greek Ombudsman, **Prof. Andreas Pottakis**, and the visiting faculty, the resident lecturer **Dr. Evgenia Kopsidi**, and **Adj. Prof. Giulia Aravantinou Leonidi**, member of our international teaching staff.

Academy of European Public Law (AEPL)

Celebrates its 30th session in 2024

26 August-16 September 2024



The Academy of European Public Law celebrated its 29th session last summer and its 30th session this summer, successfully training more than 600 students since its inception. The **2023 AEPL**, which was concluded on **16 September 2023**, was attended by fourteen students; four students successfully defended their thesis dissertation.

Moving onto the **2024 AEPL**, the program started on **26 August 2024** and is held fully on-premise. The program will conclude on **16 September 2023** with the award of Certificates and Diplomas, as every year. This year, fifteen students will participate in the study session and five students are scheduled to defend their theses as part of the AEPL I.L.L.M. program.

The AEPL welcomes one or more annual guest lecturer(s).

The lecturers of this year's session are:

Carmen Plaza, Professor of Administrative Law, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain: *"Environment, Climate crises, and sustainability: The response of the European Union Law"*.

Viky Tzatzaki, Attorney-at-Law, PhD, Legal Counselor of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, Greece: *"Environment, Climate Crises and Sustainable Development: Policies and Laws in Greece and the EU"*.

Fulvio Costantino, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Communication and International Relations, Macerata University, Italy: *"Digitalization of the State from a Comparative Perspective"*.

Jean-Bernard Auby, Professor Emeritus of Public Law, Sciences Po University Paris, France: *"Digitalization and Public Administration: Smart Cities and the Law"*.

Ton van den Brink, Full Professor, Utrecht, The Netherlands: *"Unity and Diversity in EU Green Deal legislation"*.

This year's program also includes field trips, social and cultural events, a day-off for preparation of the Thesis, meet-up-with-the-experts' sessions, and participation in the EGPL Reunion.



Professor M. Gnes with the 2023 Academy students



Free time for Professors and students



2023 Academy Students' visit to the Greek Ombudsman



2023 Cultural visit to the Acropolis Museum



Prof. Anikó Szalai's Roadshow in Universities in Rome, Italy
March 2024

Director of the EPLA Academy **Prof. Anikó Szalai** made a roadshow in Universities in Rome, Italy, for the presentation of the Academy of European Public Law (AEPL) and the topics related to this year's thematic, *i.e.* "Environment, Climate Crises and

Sustainability“as well as the “Digitalization of the State”. Supported by the Judge and President of the AEPL Curatorium **Marco D’Alberti** and **Prof. Bernardo Giorgio Mattarella, Alfredo Moliterni, Maurizio Mensi** and **Maria de Benedetto, Prof. Szalai** offered relevant lectures for the students of La Sapienza Università di Roma, LUISS University and Università degli studi Roma Tre.

Tax and Accounting Academy



Tax and Accounting Academy

The EPLO Tax and Accounting Academy (in brief “Tax Academy”) was founded by the EPLO to promote research in the area of taxation and accounting and facilitate the exchange of views on tax and accounting issues. The Academy aims to set up a forum for the exchange of ideas on tax and accounting issues among the countries in which EPLO is active with the ultimate objective the creation of a think tank and a network to promote best practices and cooperation.

Conference on the resolution of tax disputes: the experience of the decade 2013-2023 and the perspective of the future 4 April 2024



The President of the Academy’s Scientific Committee **Dr. George S. Mavraganis**

The Tax and Accounting Academy in collaboration with the Association of Greek Industries (SBE) organized an event on the topic: “The resolution of tax disputes: the experience of the decade 2013-2023 and the perspective of the future” in Thessaloniki. Welcome addresses were given by the President of the Academy’s Scientific Committee **Dr. George S. Mavraganis**, the President of SBE, **Ms. Loukia Sarantis** and the Governor of AADE, **Mr. Giorgos Pitsilis**. Interesting topics on the resolution of tax disputes were discussed by two panels. The first panel included: **Mr. Dimitrios Meidanis**, Head of TEN, AADE, **Dr. N. Dimitris**

Finokaliotis, President of the Thessaloniki Bar Association, Law Firm, Konstantinos Finokaliotis and Associates, **Christos Kodos**, Principal, Tax & Outsourcing, Grant Thornton, member of the “Tax Policy” Working Group of SBE, and **Andreas Petridis**, Economist - Tax Consultant, Gnosi Tax & Accounting Services and Coordinator of the Working Group “Tax Policy” of the SBE referred to the conclusions from the implementation



Mr. Petros Pantazopoulos, Mr. Efstathios Bakalis, Mr. Dimitris Tsagaris, Dr. George S. Mavraganis



The President of SBE **Ms. Loukia Sarantis**



The Governor of AADE **Mr. Giorgos Pitsilis**



Dimitrios Meidanis, Dr. N. Dimitris Finokaliotis, Christos Kodos, Andreas Petridis

of the changes in the judicial and administrative procedure for resolving tax disputes. In the second panel, **Mr. Petros Pantazopoulos**, Elected Assistant Professor of Tax and Fiscal Law, AUTH School of Law, Partner, Law Firm Fortsakis, Diakopoulos and Associates, **Efstathios Bakalis**, Partner KBVL - Deloitte Legal, **Dimitris Tsagaris**, President and CEO, FAO Economics - member of the Scientific Committee of the Academy of Taxation and Accounting, EPLO, and **Dr. George S. Mavraganis**, Lawyer – Tax Consultant, Managing Partner, Law Firm MKLEGAL – President of the Scientific Committee of the Tax and Accounting Academy, EPLO – Former Deputy Minister of Finance, submitted their proposals for speeding up the resolution of tax disputes.

Presentation of EPLO and its Tax and Accounting Academy at the General Assembly of the Central Union of Chambers

18 May 2024

At the General Assembly of the Central Union of Chambers that took place in Argostoli, Cephalonia Island, Greece we were invited to present EPLO and the Tax and Accounting Academy and the possibilities of cooperation with the Chambers. There was a lively interest from the participants to support Chambers from the Organization. **Dr. George S. Mavraganis**, President of the Scientific Committee, addressed EPLO’s mission and the key activities of the Tax and Accounting Academy.



The President of the Academy's Scientific Committee Dr. George S. Mavraganis

Academy of International Economic Law and Policy

Fourth Cohort of LLM in International Economic Law (IEL) 2023-2024



Academy of International Economic Law and Policy

EPLO's Academy of International Economic Law and Policy (AIELPO) has successfully conducted the fourth cohort of its flagship program on International Economic Law (IEL), which started in mid-October 2023 for the first time both face-to-face and online, having a total of 7 full-time students, in addition from those of the past cohort who continued their studies this year. Up to 8 Uzbek government officials participated in 2 courses under a

UNDP project, namely the following courses amounting to 128 hours: The Politics of Trade and Trade in Services. Also, through arrangements with the World Bank Group, two Zimbabwean officials attended investment law and policy courses sponsored by the **World Bank office in South Africa**. Moreover, the **Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC)** has expressed its willingness to send full-time students from its WTO accession projects having a capacity-building component, mainly Uzbek and Turkmen officials.

In this academic year 2023-2024, twenty-five lecturers from prestigious institutions all around the globe lectured the students on fundamentals and latest developments in the field of IEL, in particular about trade law and policy. Seven full-time students from **Kenya, Guyana, Colombia, Mauritius, India, Trinidad & Tobago** engaged in stimulating high-level discussions in class together with participants from **Greece, Canada, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe**. This reinforces increased market recognition.

Apart from the different courses through which participants are exposed to theory and practice, students have the chance to develop a research paper, participate in a **moot court** and develop a project under **Tradelab** (<https://www.tradelab.org>), an association of law clinics from prestigious universities from five continents (Georgetown, The Graduate Institute, University of Ottawa, National University of Singapore, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to name a few, see <https://www.tradelab.org/universities>), whereby students develop a consultancy legal project for a beneficiary who can be a government, a producer, an international organization, a regional organization or even an NGO. The program also comprised a career service providing professional guidance to full-time students. This academic year, two projects from the **Colombian Mission to the WTO and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** will be developed by the students.

Another key feature of this year's program was the first-ever organization of a **field trip to Brussels and Geneva**, where students got first-hand exposure to the inner dynamics of the organizations visited. This program is open to students who would like to widen their horizons in the intricacies of international economic governance today. The program therefore welcomes graduates and professionals with backgrounds in law, economics, political science, international relations, business, international and European studies and/or related fields and who are interested in legal practice both in national, regional and international bodies; economic diplomacy and public sector consulting.



2023-2024 AIELPO field trip in Brussels, Geneva, and Athens classes

Summer Programs

a) ELGS Global Administrative Law in Practice

22-26 July 2024

The ELGS Summer Intensive Program on Global Administrative Law in Practice ran for the **seventh year** on welcoming students and teachers from all over the world. The program is under the academic supervision of **Prof. Sabino Cassese** and the support of **Prof. Edoardo Chiti** and this year's theme was **"The War in Ukraine and the Prospect of EU Enlargement: Regional and Global Implications"**.

The mission of this truly international program is to provide an interdisciplinary approach to topics related to the latest global and regional reactions to the war in Ukraine. By placing a special emphasis on the EU as a global actor, this ambitious program zooms in on five key areas of interest, with a view of assessing how effective international institutions have been so far in addressing the repercussions of the Ukraine war and whether their reform is in order to administer relevant future challenges. In particular, the five areas of interest are Europe's energy crisis, EU economic and monetary policy, sanctions, EU enlargement, and finally humanitarian assistance.

The School operates at the EPLO's seaside premises in Sounion, under the Directorship of **Prof. Sabino Cassese**, who was Professor of Administrative Law and judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy, and with the support of **Prof. Edoardo Chiti** (University of La Tuscia, Italy).

The 2024 summer session included more than 20 hours of classes, cultural visits, and social events. A one-day field trip at "The Energy Regulatory Authority (RAE)" has also been organized, in which the participants were offered a lecture on "Addressing the energy crisis in Europe in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine (reform of Europe's energy market)". The following professors taught on the subjects listed below:

- Effects of the war in Ukraine on Europe's Economic and Monetary Union and the need for a central fiscal capacity, **Dr. Dimitrios Kyriazis**, Ass. Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.
- The reform of EU's enlargement policy after the war in Ukraine, **Dr. Niels Kirst**, Dublin City University, Ireland.
- Implementation of institutional sanctions against Russia as a compliance mechanism, **Prof. Antonios Tzanakopoulos**, University of Oxford, UK.
- The EU as a humanitarian actor. Emergency assistance and crisis response after the war in Ukraine, **Dr. Maria-Louiza Deftou**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.



2024 Program in Global Administrative Law in Practice

b) Migration Summer School

in collaboration with the Mediterranean Migration and Asylum Policy Hub (MedMA)

22-27 July 2024

The 2024 thematic agenda focused on **"Women in International Migration: Addressing ethnic-racial Discrimination, socioeconomic and Health Inequalities and gender-based violence"**. For eight years in a row, the ELGS ran the Migration Summer School (MIGSS). This successful 6-day summer school, ran in English, is designed and developed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of issues regarding ethnic and racial



Migration Summer School first lecture (July 2024)

inequalities, health disparities and precarity, integration, and social exclusion of migrant and refugee women in reception societies.

It also aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of investigating the impact of women's migration trajectory, social networks, and contextual conditions on their integration or marginalization in host

societies. This will be achieved through lectures and discussions led by international scholars, professors, experts, and study visits.

This week-long course involved academics and experts from European and International Universities, Institutes, and research centers. More specifically:

Bridget Anderson, Professor of Migration, Mobilities and Citizenship, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, University of Bristol, UK; **Angelo Martins Junior**, Assistant Professor in Sociology, University of Birmingham, UK; **Zoran Lapov**, Researcher, University of Florence, Italy; **Sonia Parella Rubio**, Professor, Department of Sociology, Center for Interuniversity Studies and Research in Mobility, Migrations and Minorities (CERI-M), Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain; **Nadina Christopoulou**, Co-founder and coordinator of Melissa Network for Migrant Women, Greece; **Nefeli Stournara**, MINDVIEW Research Director, Post Doc Researcher on gender, migration, working experiences, deskilling, reskilling and social capital; **Athanasios Vitsentzatos**, Director of Social Integration, Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greece; **Triantafillia Ipsaralex**, Head of the Directorate of Southern Greece Facilities, Ministry of Migration and Asylum; **Eleni Takou**, Researcher at MedMA, Expert on Migration and Hate Crime, anti-advocacy, and strategic communication; **Sebene Eshete**, Researcher at MedMA, Creator of OurStories; **Sofoklis Panagiotou**, Shelter Coordinator at IOM - UN Migration; **Erika Kalantzi**, DRC Greece Legal Aid Coordinator; **Adla Shashati**, Office Director at Greek Forum of Migrants; **Eugenia Kopsidi**, ELGS Resident Lecturer, EPLO/ELGS, Greece; **Theodoros Fouskas**, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Policy, University of West Attica, Greece, Course convener of the MIGSS program.

c) “EnerTech Summer Academy, Mastering Advanced Technologies in Energy” in collaboration with the International Hellenic University (IHU) 1-6 July 2024



This Summer Academy, co-organized with the International Hellenic University (IHU) took place at the EPLO premises at the Roman Agora. The Summer Academy aimed to explore the latest advancements in renewable energy, smart grids, microgrids, hydrogen, nuclear energy, and more. It dives deep into diverse topics. From entrepreneurship and policy to law and new technologies, it offered a comprehensive understanding of the modern energy landscape as well as the privilege to engage with renowned professors, industry experts and innovators who are shaping the future of energy. The program included lectures, case studies, field trips, cultural visits and tours, and interactive discussions on the following topics:

- Decentralizing Power – Microgrids & Virtual Power Plants
- New Horizons in Energy Entrepreneurship
- The Digital Pulse of Energy Transformation
- Innovation Driving the Low-Carbon Energy Transition
- Nuclear Energy and Technology

In this week-long course, academics and experts from European and International universities, institutes, and research centers participated. More specifically:

- **Michael Caramanis**, Boston University, former Chairman of Hellenic Regulatory Authority for Energy.
- **Stelios Bikos**, General Manager, Energy Competence Center (ECC).
- **Nikolaos Hatziargiriou**, Professor Emeritus, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens.
- **Aris Dimeas**, Assistant Professor, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens.
- **Theodore Panagos**, Professor, International Hellenic University, former Vice-Chairman of Hellenic Regulatory Authority for Energy.

- **Dimitra Vagiona**, Ass. Professor, School of Spatial Planning and Development, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

- **Nick Petropoulos**, Assistant Professor of Nuclear Engineering, School of Mechanical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens.

A field trip to Revithoussa LNG Terminal was arranged on **July 5, 2024**. “Green H2 Routes: Crafting the Regulation and Transportation Infrastructure for Europe’s Hydrogen Transition”. A delegation from DESFA welcomed the participants and organized a guided tour across their premises.



2024 EnerTech Summer Academy

d) “Parliamentary Democracy in Europe”
in collaboration with the Luiss School of Government, Rome
15-19 July 2024, Rome, Italy

A new collaboration with the **Luiss School of Government** has started with a summer school on “Parliamentary Democracy in Europe”. This summer program applies research-based knowledge and professional skills to the



Summer School students and tutors outside the Senate of the Italian Republic (Palazzo Madama)

implementation of the mechanisms that have been put in place as the European response to the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus is on the Next Generation EU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. On **18 July**, the sessions of the summer program were hosted at the EPLO Rome office at Palazzo Altemps (“EPLo day”). The Rome Office Director, **Prof. Bernardo G. Mattarella**, the Dean of the ELGS, **Luis María Díez-Picazo**, and **Prof. Maurizia De Bellis** were there to welcome the students and offer their lectures.

Guest Lectures & Side Events

The ELGS organizes a series of lectures and events every year for its students but is also open to the public.

ELGS Colloquium

Under the direction of the Dean of the ELGS, an academic colloquium was organized for the Academic personnel of the School, where **Dr. Eugenia Kopsidi** presented her academic research/paper and a thorough discussion followed for the enhancement of the resident lecturers’ research goals, achievements and publications.

Open Lectures

An open lecture on “**Power Relations Inside and Outside Constitutional Courts: The French Case**” took place both *in situ*, at the EPLO (European Public Law Organization) premises at the Roman Agora, and online on **26 January 2024** by **Prof. Thomas Perroud** (Panthéon-Assas University), focusing on how the French Constitutional Council works and the questions it raises.

An open lecture by the Dean of the ELGS **Luis María Díez-Picazo** on “**Judicial Independence: What it means and why it matters**”, addressed to the ELGS students also took place on **26 January 2024** at the EPLO premises in Athens.



Professor Thomas Perroud during his open lecture



ELGS Dean’s guest lecture to the ELGS Students

Presentation of the AI and Health report of the National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics

1 March 2024

In collaboration with “The National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics”, the ELGS organized an event at the EPLO premises in Roman Agora on the subject: “Artificial intelligence and Health in Greece”, where was presented the recent publication of the “opinion” on the applications of artificial intelligence in Health in Greece. During this debate, Government officials and speakers from members of the Committee’s Expert Group discussed the critical issues concerning the ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence applications and digital transformation in general.



TEPSA

Representation of the EPLO/ELGS at TEPSA’s Pre-Presidency Conference

13-14 June 2024

The Hungarian Pre-Presidency Conference organized by the **Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)** took place in Budapest and hosted policymakers to meet with key stakeholders and the wider public. The conference featured high-level discussions between researchers from the TEPSA Network, members of the public including students and civil society representatives, and key policymakers from the Hungarian government. Our ELGS Resident Lecturer **Dr. Eugenia Kopsidi** participated in the panel related to “Migration and Demography” and represented the EPLO at TEPSA’s General Assembly.



Contribution to TEPSA’s annual Book Series on the “Future of Europe”

ELGS members’ contribution to TEPSA’s “Future of Europe” book series under the generic title: “Enlargement and the Future of Europe: Views from the Capitals” has been accomplished. **Dr. Daniel Furby** and **Mr. Dimitris Tsaknis** shared detailed insights on Greece. The editors of the TEPSA’s “Future of Europe” book series are: **Michael Kaeding, Johannes Pollak, and Paul Schmidt**. Learn more [here](#) (January 2024).

ELSA Athens – Institutional visit at the EPLO premises

Joint Event by the ELGS, the Institute for Justice and Growth (IJG), and the Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL)

24 May 2024

The European Law and Governance School together with the Institute of Justice and Growth and the Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology were pleased to welcome **ELSA Athens**, together with approximately

50 law students of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and members of ELSA Athens for an institutional visit at the EPLO premises in Plaka. The aim and scope of the two institutes as well as the range of their work and their activities over the past few years and their vision for the future were presented to the members of ELSA Athens by **Ms. Eleni Kefali**, Justice Reform and Growth Director of the Institute of Justice and Growth.

A very comprehensive presentation of the range of academic activities and educational programs of the European Law and Governance School took place, as well as a very interesting lecture by **Prof. Nicolas Voulgaris**, ELGS Resident Faculty, on *“The perks of being (ir)relevant or how international law responds to modern conflicts”*.

The closure of the event was highlighted by the granting of six scholarships (3 full and 3 partial) for the ELGS’s summer programs among the students who attended the event.



ELGS – MCC “Mixer Event” **12 June 2024**

Representatives of the **ELGS Resident Lecturers** visited officially the MCC premises in Budapest. **MCC (Mathias Corvinus Collegium)** is a longstanding collaborator with EPLO/ELGS on academic issues and the exchange of students, academic personnel, and interns.

During the visit, the ELGS Resident Lecturers met with the Head of Law School, **Dr. Lénárd Sándor** PhD, and followed several presentations by the following university personnel: **Dr. András Bethlendi** PhD (Head of MCC Cluj), **Mr. Gergely Kitta** (MCC Director for Institutes, Strategy, and Communication), **Dr. Bence Bauer** (Director, Hungarian-German Partnership Institute), **Prof. Reinhard Merkel** (MCC Visiting Fellow, Universitat Hamburg, Professor of criminal law), **Ms. Júlia Varga** (MCC International Directorate), **Mr. Péter Túri** (Deputy Director General for Post-Graduate Education), **Dr. Kálmán Pócza** PhD (Center for Constitutional Politics), **Ms. Réka Máthé** (Center for European Studies, MCC School of International Relations), **Dr. Márton Sulyok** (Presentation of the Public Law Center and its Portfolio). All participants seemed very keen on any future collaboration, particularly for creating a permanent fellowship.

Participation in Educational Fairs **7-8 March 2024**



The (ELGS) participated in the **Salone dello Studente Salerno fair**. During the two-day duration of the fair, **Prof. Valentina Rita Scotti**, who represented the School, actively engaged with high school students interested in higher education opportunities by showcasing the diverse programs offered by ELGS and discussing potential career prospects available upon graduation.

The ELGS also took part in the **EURIE 2024 Summit**, “Building Global Connections”, which was held from **27 to 29**



ELGS at the EURIE 2024 Summit

February in **Istanbul, Turkey**, represented by the Resident Faculty Member, **Dr. Phil. Dora Papadopoulou**. During the days of the summit, all ELGS initiatives and educational programs were presented to the participants as well as the Organizer of the fair. An official presentation of the EPLO/ELGS was given in the festivities’ main hall, in which many people attended and showed genuine interest.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The EPLO has welcomed more than 220 interns from various countries all over the world including all five continents for an internship from two up to six months.



In this specific period, the EPLO received students from **Amsterdam University, Democritus University of Thrace, European Law & Governance School, European University Viadrina Frankfurt, Heidelberg University, Northeastern University, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Université Catholique de Lille, University of Bologna, University of Pavia, Shanghai University, University of Melbourne, University of Torino and Utrecht University.**

The objective of the internship program is primarily two-fold: to provide interns with an opportunity to develop professionally and personally and to assist the EPLO staff, who have the chance to interact with new talent. The objectives of the program are met by carefully matching students with supervisors who manage the interns' work plan throughout their internship at EPLO. During the period of the internship, students are constantly supported by the coordinator of the program. In addition to gaining work experience, interns are offered relevant on-the-job training opportunities and the chance to attend events and education programs of the EPLO and they participate in several organized cultural tours to key landmarks in Greece, such as the Acropolis, Sounion, and Nafplio.

In the short term, students adapt to another country and culture and become self-sufficient in a supportive environment, mingling at the same time with other young people from all over the world. In the mid-term, interns become familiar with the structure, function, and areas of activity of the EPLO, as well as the way that different departments work to achieve the goals of the Organization. In the long term, interns further explore potential career opportunities, become part of a greater network and develop transferrable professional and personal skills that will help them manage complex situations.



Applications are accepted throughout the year, while a few positions are offered, on an *ad hoc* basis, for posts at EPLO offices outside Greece. You may visit [our website](#) for full details and [here](#) for a presentation of the EPLO Internship Program in video format.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION & INSTITUTION BUILDING

The Department of Technical Cooperation of the EPLO is responsible for designing, developing, and implementing all the technical cooperation activities of the Organization.

The technical cooperation activities of the EPLO assist governments, public bodies and institutions around the world in advancing reforms in a wide range of public law and governance areas. The main areas of intervention comprise justice and the rule of law, including criminal and civil justice reform, access to justice and law enforcement; human rights, including the rights of women, children, migrants and other vulnerable groups; public administration reform; good governance and anti-corruption; private sector development; trade and intellectual property law; legislative approximation to the *acquis communautaire*; public administration reform; democratization; migration and trafficking in human beings; environment and sustainable development.

Within this framework, the EPLO carries out diverse actions and services, such as providing technical advice to governments for legislative and policy reforms, specialized training and capacity building for civil servants and practitioners, reorganization and modernization of public institutions, empowerment of civil society organizations, policy-oriented research, raising public awareness and dissemination activities. In 27 years of existence, the EPLO has implemented over 300 technical cooperation projects in more than 70 countries.

During the past year, the Department has managed a portfolio of 26 projects. The European Union funds 22 projects, two projects are funded by the Italian Government, one by the Canadian government, and one project by Greek funds. The geographical scope of the projects includes all EU Member States as well as Albania, Canada, Jordan and Liberia.

The following is a brief overview of the concluded, ongoing, and new projects.

Concluded projects

1. CRESCENTO: Circular Economy Skills Enhancement Network

Donor: EU, Interreg ADRION

Duration: 9 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The overall objective of the project is to raise competencies and skills in Circular Economy, strategically relevant for a more Sustainable Adriatic-Ionian area, by networking with local actors from academia, research, business, and public sector and elaborating a Joint Master that includes internships and hands-on training.

2. Innovative Solutions for Improving the Environmental Status of Eutrophic and Anoxic Coastal Ecosystems - BLUE-GREENWAY

Donor: EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation

Duration: 39 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: To provide innovative solutions for sustainable environmental management of eutrophic and anoxic coastal ecosystems (EACEs), by increasing knowledge-sharing between Academia and PAs to improve the environmental status of ecosystems, and building the capacities of SMEs and farmers for comprehensive sustainable water/wastewater management.

3. Aid - aRTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE for the Deaf

Donor: EU, Horizon Program

Duration: 25 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: To offer a comprehensive suite of solutions catering to deaf people's communication needs, and more specifically to implement application pilots of immense practical importance that will be evaluated by the end-users.

4. STAND UP: Standing up against hate in the EU

Donor: European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers

Duration: 24 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: to establish a public authority-led, multi-agency model for countering hate crime. In particular, the project will enhance multi-agency cooperation in countering hate crime as well as strengthen victim support through awareness and skills on "sensitive investigation" and prosecution.



Closing event “Stand Together Against Hate: A Multi-Agency Initiative”, Brussels, January 2024

Framework Contract for the Implementation of External Aid 2018 - Lot 3: Human Rights, Democracy and Peace

Donor: European Commission, DG International Cooperation and Development EuropeAid

Duration: 66 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: To provide expertise that can be mobilized at short notice for the implementation of European Union External Aid, in the sectors of Human Rights, Democracy, and Peace.

5. Aid Formulation Liberia 2023

Donor: EU, EUD to Liberia

Duration: 9 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the programming and formulation of EU cooperation in Liberia to achieve human development through background studies, analysis, and other technical inputs in view of programming actions that are sound and transformative.

6. Multi-ministry Compliance Promotion and Compliance Modernization, OMAFRA

Donor: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs

Duration: 3 months

EPLO role: Sub-contractor

Objective: The overall objective for the project is to develop a “One-Ontario” multi-ministry approach to compliance promotion to make it easy for businesses to understand the regulatory rules and requirements from multiple regulators that apply to them to reduce the burden on businesses and to enhance the delivery of regulatory compliance programs.

Ongoing projects

7. Support for the EU integration process in Albania

Donor: EU, IPA

Duration: 58 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Albania to successfully manage the overall EU integration process and effectively conduct the Stabilization and Association Agreement process and accession negotiations.

8. BENEVICT: Analysis of benefits of full implementation of the Victims’ Rights Directive

Donor: European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers

Duration: 24 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: To support the EU and Member States (MSs) in their future action on common values and implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Strategy as well as support MSs in the development of their own national strategies.

9. S3E: Southern European Entrepreneurship Engine

Donor: EU, Horizon Program

Duration: 30 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: To develop an engine of growth that will contribute to improving the connectedness and efficiency of the Southern European countries' innovation ecosystems. S3E's focus is on the acceleration of deep tech projects/startups that, by providing solutions to a more sustainable society, can impact the economic growth in these countries and contribute to the timely achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Support to the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) of Jordan

Donor: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Duration: 23 months

EPLO role: Leader

Objective: The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the implementation of the Modernization Vision of the Government of Jordan and specifically to the achievement of the objectives of the Public Sector Modernization Roadmap. The project supports the institutional strengthening of the Institute of Public Administration of Jordan and the improvement of the performance of the Jordanian Civil Service through training and capacity-building initiatives.



Jordan delegation at the Royal Palace of Caserta

11. VR-DigiJust - Digitalising Justice via Combined Virtual Reality Training

Donor: European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers

Duration: 36 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: VR-DigiJust contributes to the effective and coherent application of specific EU judicial cooperation instruments at a regional level through a decentralized cross-border and cross-professional training strategy in the framework of the Council Conclusions 6926/21.

12. RINSE - Research and Information Sharing on freezing and confiscation orders in the European Union

Donor: European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers

Duration: 36 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The main objective of the project is to foster the mutual recognition of the decisions of EU Member States regarding the seizure and confiscation of assets by enhancing the knowledge, competencies, and skills of judiciary professionals and other key players involved in the Multi-Phase Asset Recovery process in line with the priorities of the EU provisions - Regulation 2018/1805 and Directive 2014/42.

13. Dialogue4Tourism: Institutional dialogue on Sustainable Tourism and Governance in the Euro-Med area

Donor: EU, Interreg Med

Duration: 7 years

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The overall objective of this project is to increase the coordination level and institutional capacity of public authorities, multi-level bodies, programs, strategies, and initiatives in the Mediterranean to make greener, smarter, and more resilient tourism sector for the flourishing of local communities, visitors, and nature, embracing the fourfold approach of the mission: circularity of tourism services, environmental neutrality, sustainable ecosystem services, and cultural and natural preservation of resources.

14. Coastal pro: e Game-based Learning of Entrepreneurship and Next-Generation Skills in Coastal Tourism

Donor: EU, EMFAF

Duration: 33 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The main objective of this project is to create cutting-edge learning tools, provide top-quality training courses and support, and develop a framework for next-generation skills in coastal tourism.

15. Water Re-think

Donor: Green Fund, Greece

Duration: 12 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The project aims *a)* to raise awareness among the population about the problem of water scarcity as a result of the climate crisis, chemical pollution, and population growth, *b)* to analyse the effects of water scarcity on food and energy concerning the availability of the population, *c)* record the potential of Greece in liquid waste that can be reused, and *d)* formulate proposals to deal with the water shortage and its effects.



Conference on the reuse of water in Greece as a solution to the phenomenon of water scarcity, Kavala, May 2024

New projects:

16. DesirMed - Demonstration and Mainstreaming of nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilient Transformation in the Mediterranean

Donor: EU, Horizon 2020

Duration: 60 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The overall objective is to strengthen the knowledge and the capabilities of Mediterranean regions and communities to take leadership and ownership in their transformative Climate Change Adaptation pathways and accelerate the implementation of transformative solutions required to increase their climate resilience over the long term as well as prioritize nature-based solutions alongside innovative technologies and inclusive social practices.

17. Herit Adapt - Heritage and Territory Resilience through sustainable Tourism, Climate Change Adaptation, and Citizen Engagement

Donor: EU, Interreg Med

Duration: 33 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The project aims: *a)* to foster cooperation among key stakeholders by activating interdisciplinary Territorial Working Groups (TWGs) to co-design the data-driven HERIT ADAPT Sustainable Tourism Model (STM) that will be tested in 8 pilot Euro-MED regions of different typologies, including UNESCO sites and lesser-known monuments in coastal, hinterland and mountainous areas, *b)* to engage target groups to identify lessons learned and co-develop Sustainable and Resilient Tourism Strategies, and *c)* to convert challenges into opportunities by using heritage as a vehicle for communicating Cultural Heritage (CH) and Natural Heritage (NH) assets in the context of climate change.



Kick-off meeting of the project Co-Pacman- COoperation and CO-designing PArtnership for CliMAtE Neutrality, Siena, March 2024

18. Co2-Pacman – Cooperation and Co-designing Partnership for Climate Neutrality

Donor: EU, Interreg Med

Duration: 33 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The project aims to promote multi-purpose actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation by leveraging local knowledge and assets, ensuring sustainable growth, energy security, and improved quality of life. It will create the CO2 Pacman tool to assess challenges, identify multi-sectoral solutions, and quantify their carbon footprint impacts. The project supports Mediterranean islands, specifically Brac (Croatia), Crete (Greece), and Elba (Italy), in transitioning to climate neutrality by advancing previous project results.

19. Enhancing the media and communication ecosystem and institutional environment in Jordan

Donor: EU

Duration: 16 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The overall objective of the project is to contribute to advancing the media and communication ecosystem and infrastructure in Jordan in accordance with the best international standards and practices.

20. Industrial Ecosystems -Supporting the Implementation of the Greek National Industrial Strategy

Donor: European Commission, DG Reform

Duration: 24 months

EPLO role: Sub-contractor

Objective: The primary objective of this project is to offer technical support for the successful execution of the Greek National Industrial Strategy (NIS). It focuses on three key areas crucial for designing policies aimed at transforming the Greek industry and enhancing its competitiveness and resilience: 1) Strengthening industrial eco-systems; 2) Intellectual and Industrial property (IP) and 3) Upskilling and reskilling for the green and digital transition. EPLO is responsible for providing support in Pillar 2: Intellectual and Industrial Property.



Kick-off meeting of the “Industrial Ecosystems project”, Athens

21. Framework Contract Services for EU External Action (SEA 2023) Lot 9: Democracy, Human rights, Rule of Law, Gender Equality and HRBA

Donor: EU

Duration: 48 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: This FWC aims to support the European Commission's efforts in external action implementation across various Directorates-General (DG INTPA, DG NEAR, DG ECHO), the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), and EU Delegations. The activities encompassed within this framework cover the entire project cycle, ranging from initial identification and feasibility studies to operational and technical follow-ups. Services provided include financial and contractual monitoring, technical, financial, or contractual audits, offering technical advice, training and support in the areas of human rights and HRBA, support to democratization, reinforcement of the rule of law and administration of justice, public administration reform and organizational development of public institutions, as well as elections.

22. EU Childocracy

Donor: EU, CERV Programme

Duration: 24 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The project aims to promote European democracy through direct youth engagement, fostering cross-cultural collaboration and advocacy for shared European values. Specifically targeting Greece, Bulgaria and Italy, the project will involve 180 young people aged 14-25 in events focused on campaigning for EU values within local contexts.

23. Digital rights - Applying EU directives on procedural rights in the context of trials regarding cybercrimes, the use of e-evidences and investigative digital forensics

Donor: European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers

Duration: 24 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The project aims to bolster the practical application of the EU directives on procedural rights for suspects and accused persons involved in criminal proceedings in cases where the penal law is confronted with the use of new technologies. It focuses on two main aspects of the procedural rights of suspects and accused individuals in criminal proceedings: 1. Accusations for crimes covered by the Budapest Convention; 2. Accusation for other crimes where e-evidence and investigations based on digital forensics are at the center of the prosecuting and trial actions.

24. VISAR - Victim Support through alignment of remedies

Donor: European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers

Duration: 24 months

EPLO role: Partner

Objective: The project aims to ensure effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for crime victims, including through electronic means, by promoting efficient, victim-centered criminal procedures. ViSAR addresses three key areas: the fragmented implementation of Directive 2012/29 across Member States, its specific application to victims of domestic violence, and its correlation with the EU Protection Order.

25. Support for the Italy-Tunisia Strategic Partnership on Food Security (TANIT)

Donor: Italian Government Climate Fund

Duration: 6 months

EPLO role: Leader

Objective: Preparation of a Feasibility Study in the framework of the Project "Support for the Italy-Tunisia Strategic Partnership on Food Security (TANIT)", which aims to improve Tunisia's food security in a sustainable and climate-resilient way through effective management of non-conventional waters and drought-affected agricultural land.

PUBLICATIONS

The EPLO remains committed to publishing Journals, Series, and Stand-alone editions that focus on public law while also dealing with topical issues of our times falling within other areas.

Abiding by EPLO Publications' international character and their ongoing effort to allow researchers to access an international audience, submissions are received in a variety of languages, which is the EPLO Publications' distinctive feature: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, German, Greek and Italian, and the native languages of authors coming from Central and Eastern European countries (including the Turkish language) depending on the publication.

During the reporting period between **September 2023 and September 2024**, more than **2,000 pages of scientific research** have been made available to the reader. Special mention should be made of:

- **The *European Review of Public Law*** was established in 1989 with the aim to present substantial and quality works in the field of public law in Europe and worldwide and thus promote research and international debate in this field. It is a quarterly publication and constitutes EPLO's most long-standing publication. The ***European Review of Public Law*** has been continuously published since 1989 and it is now in its **131st** issue. Among its special series, the ***European Public Law Series*** comprises up to now **127 volumes**, among which Conference proceedings, Collective books, and monographs.



This last year, to represent as many legal orders as possible and to provide readers with access to developments in a variety of countries, we had the pleasure of welcoming in the *European Review of Public Law* new chroniclers by countries already represented, but also of welcoming Cape Verde among the countries of which developments in their Constitutional and Administrative Law and Jurisprudence will be depicted in the *Review*. This raises the number of the countries represented by chronicles in the *European Review of Public Law* to 26: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

In the issues of the *European Review of Public Law* that appeared during the reporting period, topical public law issues have been addressed and developments in the fields of Constitutional and Administrative Law (and Jurisprudence) in a variety of countries have been chronicled. The Book Reviews chronicles are also an inseparable and important section of the *Review*. More detailed information is provided herein concerning the latest issue of the *Review*:

European Review of Public Law 36_1/2024 (131)

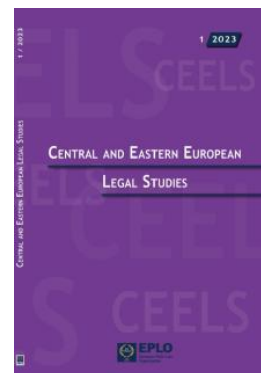
Recently appeared, issue 36_1/2024 (131) of the *European Review of Public Law* comprises the proceedings of the EGPL Conference that took place in September 2023 on the occasion of the EGPL Annual Reunion on the theme "Digital Transformation: Technology, Fundamental Rights, Public Administration". In this issue of the *Review*, eminent academics and legal scholars specializing in this field present their papers on topical issues of utmost significance such as "Technology and Fundamental Rights – Digital Constitutionalism", "Technology and Fundamental Rights – Artificial Intelligence", "Technology and Public Administration – Digital State". Moreover, the themes treated in the context of the Workshops held within the framework of the Conference (*i.e.*, a presentation of the book "70 years of EU law: A Union for its citizens", edited by the Legal Service of the European Commission; The Social Digital State. The Right to Education as an Example; Digital Citizenship and Public Services: Urban Town Planning and Dematerialization of the Administration; Essential State Functions in the Age of Digitalization: Business, Human Rights and Constitutionalism) are examined through contributions by legal scholars and academics with a great interest in the respective fields.

- **The *Central and Eastern European Legal Studies***, launched as a periodical biannual publication in 2013, aims to allow academics coming from CEE countries and also academics from other countries specializing in this field, to come together and exchange views on public law issues of these countries.

In the reporting period, the following issues appeared:

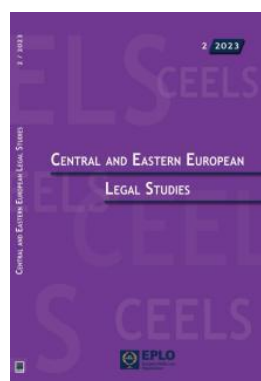
Central and Eastern European Legal Studies, 1/2023

The first issue of the year 2023 of the *Central and Eastern European Legal Studies* comprises papers coming from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania and the Slovak Republic on: the right to housing, which reflects one of the basic human needs – the need for a dwelling; the analysis of supranational and national legislation relating to diasporas in Europe; the EU’s obligation to respond to the danger that peace and global prosperity are facing, by demonstrating its solidarity, its universal values and by setting up policies capable of guaranteeing an “effective deterrence” against revisionist visions; the infringement of the national constitution of 1910 by the adoption of the Postal Savings Bank Law (*Postsparkasse*); the legal regulation of the taxation of environmental pollution in the Republic of Lithuania using the environmental pollution tax mechanism; and last but not least, the hypothesis that law, like all other cultural elements, is subject to the mechanism of collective evolutionary selection.



Central and Eastern European Legal Studies, 2/2023

The papers published in the second issue of the year 2023 of the *Central and Eastern European Legal Studies*, coming from Georgia, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Turkey and Ukraine, deal with: the topic of implementation and protection of human rights and more in particular the legislative and institutional framework of the human rights agenda in the Slovak Republic; Ukraine’s economic integration into the EU as a key development area that not only determines the country’s future, but also has a profound impact on its economic, political, and socio-cultural dynamics; the domestic mechanisms for regulating sanctions, considered as one of the types of non-pecuniary liability, which represents an important aspect of the modern legal system in Ukraine; the legislative progress made in 2023 on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, with a careful look at generative AI and with the analysis of existing vulnerabilities in the analyzed field; the approximation process with the EU environmental *acquis* in Georgia started directly after the signing of the “Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part”; the marine environmental protection under the regime of the 1982 Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with special reference to provisional measures of protection provided both in the 1982 UNCLOS and the Statute and Rules of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), by also examining the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement (FSA), including its conservation and dispute settlement regimes, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Optional Environmental Arbitration Rules (OEAR) of 2001 and 2010.



Finally, a new publishing initiative by the EPLO Office in Rome, operating through the EPLO Institute for Humanities and Culture “Nicos Svoronos”, should be emphasized. This will be a biannual journal that will analyze historical and cultural phenomena across different places and periods to identify commonalities, differences, and broader trends.

Detailed information on EPLO Publications is available at the EPLO Publications website <https://eplopublications.eu/>.

INSTITUTES

Institute for Justice and Growth (IJG)



**Institute for
Justice &
Growth**

The Institute for Justice and Growth (IJG) has been established to provide consulting educational and training services of expert and innovative character as well as technical assistance and support to countries and Organizations for reforming and improving the national judicial systems and contributing to the enhancement of citizens’ trust in justice and the rule of law, improving the business and investment environment to boost competitiveness and openness of the economy, exploiting IT technologies in the field of public governance (e-government) as well as in the field of justice (e-justice) aiming at transparent, accountable and good governance.

Event on “Legal Education in the Modern Era”

13 March 2024



The event was honored by the participation of the President of the Supreme Court,

Ms. Ioanna Klapa-Christodoulea, who coordinated the event and the very interesting discussion that followed. We had the honor and pleasure of greetings at the event by the Minister of Education, Religion and Sports **Mr. Kyriakos Pierrakakis** (via a video message), the Minister

of Justice **Mr. Georgios Floridis**, and the President of the Institute for Justice and Development **Mr. Nicolas Kanellopoulos**.

The following distinguished speakers presented very interesting suggestions at the event that kept the audience’s attention undiminished and triggered the very interesting discussion that followed:

- **Spyridon Flogaitis**, Director of the European Public Law Organization;
- **Panagiotis Glavinis**, Professor of International Economic Law and Dean of the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki;
- **Dimitrios Tsirikas**, Professor of Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens;
- **Konstantinos Kousoulis**, Vice President of the Council of State, Director of the Legal Office of the Presidency of the Republic;
- **Panagiotis Perakis**, Lawyer and former President of the Council of European Bar Associations (CCBE);
- **Christina Tsagli**, Lawyer, member of the Board of the Athens Bar Association, former General Secretary of the Athens Bar Association.

Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL)



Institute for
Privacy Law,
Data Protection
and Technology

The Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection, and Technology (IPL) was established by the EPLO to advance and promote knowledge and policy in the field of privacy and data protection law, technology, society, and fundamental rights. The vision of the Institute is to cover a wide range of topics related to privacy and data protection law and technology and their normative and technical implications within a multidisciplinary research institute,

combining law, philosophy, social sciences, public administration, and management sciences sharing the expertise and experiences of legal scholars and privacy law lawyers, electronics engineers, information technology scientists and sociologists.

Event on “General Data Protection Regulation”

14 December 2023

The event “General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): Five years on” organized by the **Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL)** of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) was successfully held on Thursday, 14 December 2023, at the premises of the EPLO at the Roman Agora.

The keynote speakers who honored the event and contributed to the scientific discussion with their presentations were:

- **Mr. Konstantinos Menoudakos**, Honorary Chairman of the Council of State, President of Hellenic Data Protection Authority (HDP),
- **Ms. Irene Loizidou Nikolaidou**, Commissioner for Personal Data Protection of Cyprus, Vice President of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB),

- **Prof. Georgios Giannopoulos**, Deputy Professor of Information Technology Law, Director of the Information Technology Law Laboratory, Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens,
- **Philip Mitleton**, Lawyer, Member of the Permanent Scientific Committee for Data Protection of the Ministry of Justice.

The event as well as the very interesting discussion that followed was moderated by **Ms. Lilian Mitrou**, Professor, University of the Aegean, Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, President of the Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL).

Welcome speeches were addressed by **Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis**, Director of the EPLO, as well as by **Mr. Nicolas Kanellopoulos**, President of the Institute for Justice and Growth and Executive Director of the Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL).

The event and the European Public Law Organization were honored by esteemed representatives of the legal and academic community, information technology scientists, and Data Protection Officers (DPO) of various public and private organizations, public officers, university students, etc.



Joint Activities & Events by the Institutes for Justice and Growth (IJG) and for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL)

The EPLO Institutes for Justice and Growth and for Private Law, Data Protection, and Technology visited the President of the Hellenic Republic

12 June 2024

H.E. The President of the Hellenic Republic Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou welcomed at the Presidential Mansion the Director of the European Public Law Organization **Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis**, as well as the President of the Institute for Justice and Growth (IJG) **Mr. Nicolas Kanellopoulos** and the President of the Institute for Private Law, Data Protection and Technology (IPL) of EPLO, **Prof. Lilian Mitrou**.

The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere. The activities of the two Institutes and their interventions in the public debate during the last years were presented to the President, along with the reforms required in the field of justice and issues related to the application of new technologies, especially artificial intelligence, in all aspects of public and private life and their effects. In this context, the critical role that the two Institutes can and should



play through their scientific potential under the auspices of an internationally prestigious Organization, such as the European Public Law Organization, was highlighted.

The representatives of the Organization expressed their desire and intention to rise to the challenges and demands of the time and once again placed themselves at the disposal of the Presidency of the Republic for synergies and promotion of the public scientific dialogue on the institutional issues that concern the academic and scientific world.

H.E. The President of the Republic expressed her appreciation for the work of the Organization and its Institutes. The culmination of this is the provision of the patronage of the Presidency of the Republic to the **upcoming 3rd International Conference entitled “Quo Vadis AI Act?”**, organized by **the Institute for Privacy Law, Personal Data and Technology and the Institute for Justice and Growth**, on Tuesday **18 June 2024** at the Divani Caravel Hotel, with the focus of the topic this time on the Artificial Intelligence Act, a turning point, a milestone for the use of Artificial Intelligence in the public and private sector.

3rd Quo Vadis AI Conference **18 June 2024**

With the presence, and under the auspices, of **H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou**, the 3rd Quo Vadis AI Conference was successfully held on Tuesday 18 June at the Divani Caravel Hotel.

The Conference was also honored by the presence and participation of the Ministers of *i) State, Akis Skertsos, ii) Digital Governance, Dimitris Papastergiou, iii) Education, Sports and Religious Affairs, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, and iv) Justice, Giorgos Floridis*, and over 250 participants.

The Quo Vadis AI conference was organized for the third time by the Institute for Privacy Law, Data Protection and Technology and the Institute for Justice and Growth of the European Public Law Organization and Boussias Events under the scientific supervision of the Presidents of the two Institutes, Professor at the University of the Aegean **Lilian Mitrou** and Lawyer and former Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice **Nicolas Kanellopoulos** respectively. The welcome speech was addressed by the Director of the European Public Law Organization **Professor Spyridon Flogaitis**.



This year, as it coincides with the EU’s adoption of the world’s first AI legislation, it was called “Quo Vadis AI Act?”. With the participation of four Ministers as well as distinguished speakers from the European institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe), academia, the public sector, and the market, a multifaceted, high-level dialogue was held on the evolution of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on the citizens, the public sector, business, education and justice, in the light of the new European framework.

<https://www.aiconference.gr/>



Institute for Sustainable Development



Institute for Sustainable Development

The Institute for Sustainable Development of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) supports the public and private sectors in building implementation and governance capacity to deliver the UN 2020 Agenda (the SDGs) and to promote Sustainable Development and the European Green Deal. Operating as a knowledge hub bringing together expertise across different resources worldwide, the Institute offers training programs, and strategic and policy guidance in sustainable development, ESG, sustainable finance, circularity, and

blue economy. It was originally launched in 2018 as the SDG Center on Governance and Public Law as a collaboration between the **University of Cambridge and EPLO**. In the meanwhile, the Institute has run several projects on sustainable development, organized high-level conferences and side events in UN Conferences (including the recent UN Ocean Conference), and **is currently a partner in two European-funded programs**. Over the years, the Institute has established itself as an authority in the fields it operates in.

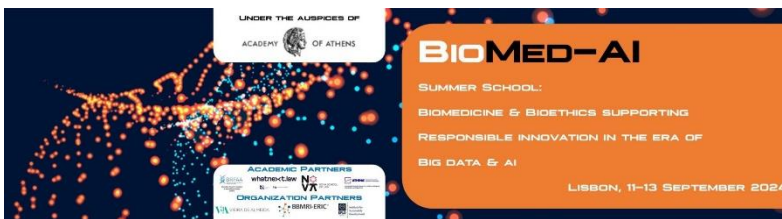
Coastal Pro EU-funded project on up-skilling in blue careers September 2023

The Institute is a partner in the **Coastal Pro** EU-funded project on upskilling in blue careers that commences. Via this program, the Institute will be training tourism professionals in sustainability, circularity, ESG, and the blue economy fields of the Institute for Sustainable Development expertise.



CoastalPro kick-off Meeting in Lemnos, Greece, September 2023

The 2024 BioMed-AI Summer School 11-13 September 2024, Lisbon, Portugal



The Institute is co-organizing for the second time the **BioMed-AI Summer School**, under the auspices of the Academy of Athens and the organizational support of the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens in September 2024 in Lisbon. The Summer School will be delving into the future of

biomedical research, ethics, and cutting-edge innovation. **Mr. Spyros Kouvelis**, Institute Director, and **Ms. Christina Deligianni**, Policy and Programs Director, will be exploring the nexus of sustainability, ESG, and responsible AI along a distinguished line-up of speakers from prestigious institutions such as NOVA Medical School - Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, NOVA School of Law, and representatives from the European Parliament and the European Health Data space.

Partnership with the Energy Transition Reuters Events November-December 2023, Dubai, UAE



The Institute partnered for a second time with Reuters Events and contributed to the first legacy conference of the Reuters Events Energy Transition MENA 2023 (6-7 December, Dubai) in three-panel discussions:

- Take Charge of the Energy Transition Narrative
- MENA's Energy Mix - how are public and private stakeholders working to achieve a diverse and sustainable power supply?
- Renewable Asset Management: Optimizing Operational Performance and Profitability

Moderation of the Energy Transition Reuters Events in Dubai, November 2023

Official Side Event at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) November-December 2023, Dubai UAE

The Institute was honored to host a side event at the 28th Conference of the Parties (**COP28**) in Dubai, UAE, with representatives from International Organizations, Funds, and the industry from both Europe and the UAE and had a strong presence during the two-week conference, liaising and holding meetings with thought-leaders in the field, including the COP28 President, H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber.



Meeting with H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber,
President of COP28

Participation in the Greek BlueMissionMed

19 December 2023



Through Mr. **Spyros Kouvelis**, a **Mission Ocean Board Member and Institute Director**, the Institute is supporting the **EU-funded BlueMissionMed** project, aimed at supporting the implementation of the EU Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters and committed to empowering all the actors that can take a role in preventing and eliminating pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and waters. To this end, the Institute co-organized the launch of the Greek Hub and meetings with stakeholders.

Horizon Europe South3E Program

April 2024



South3E - S3E Charge Program Open Day, April 2024

The Institute is a proud partner in the Horizon Europe South3E acceleration program on deep tech and sustainability, responsible for the Growth Start-Ups Acceleration Program and the ecosystem. To this end, it has organized and delivered more than thirty webinars on subjects such as IP protection, funding opportunities, sustainable finance, circular economy, ESG, and the path to net zero. To this date, the Institute has accelerated 29 deep tech start-ups that have secured more than 3 million euros in funding. It is noteworthy that this is the very first Horizon Europe project that EPLD as an organization has ever been involved in.

The Earthshot Prize Official Nominator

April 2024

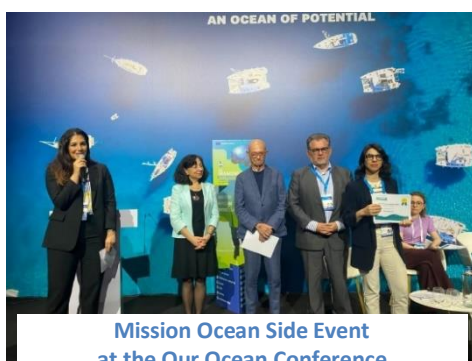
The Institute has been privileged to be a Nominator for a third year for the prestigious **Earthshot Prize** founded by **HRH the Prince and Princess of Wales and the British Royal Foundation**. This year, the Institute proposed six outstanding nominations that offer solutions to the most pressing challenges of our times and participated in the roundtable discussion at the British Embassy event at the Bank of Greece on the Earthshot Prize.



Participation in the roundtable discussion at the
British Embassy Earthshot Prize Event, April 2024

Our Ocean Conference in Athens, Greece

16 April 2024



Mission Ocean Side Event
at the Our Ocean Conference

The Institute actively participated in the Our Ocean Conference in Athens, Greece, and **Ms. Christina Deligianni**, Policy and Programs Director, moderated the Our Ocean Conference side event organized by the European Commission / Mission Ocean and Waters, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Blue Mission Med (led by the **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research** with the support of the EPLD Institute for Sustainable Development) on **16 April 2024** with a diverse panel of speakers, including the Director General of DG Mare and the Mission Ocean Board President. Concrete actions have been presented along with initiatives that focus on philanthropic and public investments for greater impact.



The Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Theatre Institute, and the Culture For Causes Network were honored to collaborate in organizing two pivotal panel discussions on Culture and Arts Education for a Sustainable Future during the UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

Georgetown University Visit 21 May 2024



Georgetown University visit to the Institute

The Institute for Sustainable Development hosted 15 students and faculty members from the Georgetown University Summer School at the EPLO premises at the Roman Agora for a Sustainability Half-Day Session. **Ms. Christina Deligianni**, Policy and Programs Director, presented the Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Greece with specific mention of the Greek Voluntary National Report presented to the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations in 2022 and specific recommendations by the Institute for the way forward. In the three-hour session, we introduced students to the sustainability and climate change landscape in Greece and Europe, with presentations on the EU

Green Deal and the Mission Ocean by **Mr. Spyros Kouvelis** as a Mission Board member. **Ms. Chrysa Efstratiou**, Program Officer, Hellenic Center for Marine Research, presented the BlueMissionHub project in Greece and **Mr. George Stengos** the Just Go Zero project by Polygreen, an Earthshot Prize Nominee by the Institute.

Institute for Humanities and Culture “Nicos Svoronos”



Institute for
Humanities
and Culture
Nicos Svoronos

The Institute for Humanities and Culture “Nicos Svoronos” was established in memory of the late professor who excelled in the combination of humanities and culture with law and governance. The Institute is established to promote study, research, and training and to organize various initiatives and events in the area of administrative, financial, judicial, defense, religious, cultural affairs and international relations, as well as the

arts, music, archeology, popular culture, everyday life, etc. **Prof. Kalliopi (Kelly) Bourdara** is the Director of the Institute.

Institute on Crime and Criminal Justice (ICCJ)



Institute on Crime
& Criminal Justice

The Institute on Crime & Criminal Justice (ICCJ) of the EPLO was established in November 2020. The mission of the Institute on Crime and Criminal Justice focuses on promoting the study, research, consulting, training, and policy-oriented work to crime-related studies and criminal justice policies at the national, European, and international levels. The specific fields of interest

of the Institute on Crime and Criminal Justice are human rights, criminal justice policies, criminology, victimology, security, civil society, and social issues.

The ICCJ implemented research and awareness activities and participated in many project proposals submitted under EU calls for funding. In the period from **September 2023 to September 2024**, the Institute participated in three funded projects as a full partner.

1. The ‘**STAND-UP**’ project (<https://stand-up-project.eu/news/>) on combating hate crime/hate speech in Europe with the collaboration of seven project partners and six countries involved. The project ran for 24 months and ended in **January 2024**. EPLO together with the **Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)** as partners of the project organized a webinar on “Addressing Hate Crime in the Digital Era” on Tuesday, **12 December 2023**. Also, **Prof. Vasiliki Artinopoulou**, the Director of the Institute participated in the final conference that took place in Brussels in **January 2024** with the participation of representatives of the European Commission, EU stakeholders, and the project partners’ network professionals.
2. The **VR DigiJust (Digitalizing Justice through Virtual Reality Training)** started in **November 2022** and will last for three years. The second project meeting was held in Athens, at the EPLO premises, in **October 2023**. A focus group activity was organized on **25 May 2023** at the EPLO premises on “New Technologies in Justice: Implementations and Challenges”. Judges and prosecutors from various regions of Greece attended the event, discussing among others topics of justice in the era of digitalization, how new technologies are interfering in the justice systems, the legal and ethical framework on Artificial Intelligence in the EU, practices, and methods of digitalizing Justice and Training Professionals through Virtual Reality Technology. Last, but not least, all participants had the opportunity to identify and indicate challenges and prospects in the matter. A network of judges and prosecutors trained in the new technologies has been established in Greece for the capacity-building activities of the project.
3. The ICCJ also participates in the research and dissemination activities of the **BENEVICT** project focused on the promotion of victims’ rights across Europe and the implementation of EU Directive 2012/29/EU. The ICCJ was represented at the **Victims Support Europe (VSE) Annual Conference** in Zagreb from **22 to 23 May 2024**.
4. The Director of the ICCJ **Prof. Vasiliki Artinopoulou** is a member of the UN Treaty Body, the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT), and since **February 2023** served as the Head of the European Regional Team. Also, in **February 2024**, **Prof. Vasiliki Artinopoulou** was appointed by the Prime Minister of Greece **Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, the Head of an Experts Committee on Youth Violence and Delinquency, an advisory body in the Presidency of the Greek Government.



Circular Economy & Climate Institute (EPLO/CC)



Circular Economy & Climate Institute

The Circular Economy and Climate Institute is promoting circular economy and sustainable practices, climate, environmental, and energy diplomacy, as well as the new holistic concept of “circular diplomacy” and will strive to mainstream circular economy in all policy areas.

Director and Member of the Board of the EPLO: **George Kremlis**,
Deputy Director: **Garyfallia (Fay) Selimi**.

The Institute is supported by a diverse team of interdisciplinary experts and its scientific board, which includes distinguished academics and professionals from around the globe. The Institute aims to advance the adoption of circular economy principles across governance levels, promoting both top-down and bottom-up approaches, along with fostering social circular economy initiatives. It also focuses on promoting circular entrepreneurship and circular environmental and social governance (C-ESG). Additionally, the Institute shares best practices for climate change mitigation and resilience actions while advocating for climate-proofing and green public procurement.

Flagship events and initiatives

The Director of the Institute **Mr. G. Kremlis** has represented the Institute at numerous conferences and events related to its subject matter, as a speaker or Moderator. Indicatively: **Delphi Economic Forum** (10-13 April 2024, Delphi - Greece), **Sofia Economic Forum** (27 June 2023, Sofia - Bulgaria), **CoP28** (30 November – 13 December 2023, Dubai – UAE), **Alpha Mission** in Delos Island (15 May 2024, Greece).

Deputy Director **Ms. Fay Selimi** represented EPLO at the **Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol at the Conference of the Parties** in December 2023, in Geneva.

Circle the Med Forum 2024 hosted and organized by the Circular Economy & Climate Institute 18-19 January 2024

The 7th edition of **Circle the Med Forum** took place at the premises of the EPLO in Plaka while the afternoon of the second day saw proceedings at the Amphitheater of the Acropolis Museum. The Forum has achieved a high attendance with an average online participation of 500 people from 45 countries in the broader region and over 200 physically present attendees. This year's Forum marked a significant expansion, addressing the challenges faced by the Black Sea basin, exacerbated by ongoing conflicts. Discussions focused on environmental diplomacy,



COP28, December 2023, Dubai - UAE / Circle the Med Forum, January 2024, Athens - Greece

island sustainability, transitioning to circular economies, sustainable tourism, heritage conservation, circular business practices, food safety, and green financing. High-level meetings addressed civil protection, energy connectivity, circular shipping, and international cooperation. These conversations highlighted the urgency of promoting circular economy practices for sustainable development in the region.

Publications

Various articles and statements written by the Director and the Deputy Director of the Institute were published on relevant websites and newspapers.

Alliances and collaborations

The Institute is actively seeking to broaden its network, and in pursuit of this goal, it has established significant collaborations with key partners. Some key-highlights include the:

- Signature of MoU between the Institute and the Greek Civil Aviation Authority.
- The Institute has initiated discussions with the Piraeus Port Authority to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.



Sofia Economic Forum, June 2023, Sofia - Bulgaria / Delphi Economic Forum, April 2024, Delphi - Greece

European Institute of Management and Governance (EIMG)



European Institute of Management and Governance

The European Institute of Management and Governance (EIMG) was created with the vision to become the center of excellence in management development, consulting, and policy research.

EIMG promotes the design and organization of customized scientific-technical support / training activities on issues of management and governance. EIMG co-operates with EPLO's

Department of Technical Cooperation in submitting proposals and undertaking capacity building and expertise provision activities. The Director of the EIMG is **Ms. Vasiliki Moustakatou**.

During the reporting period, EIMG's Director continued to participate as a Key Expert in the capacity-building activities in the program **"Support to the Institute of Public Administration of Jordan"**, which is assigned to EPLO, as project leading organization, in partnership with the Italian School of Public Administration (SNA), and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS Amman). The project is run by EPLO's Technical Cooperation Department.



Ms. Vasiliki Moustakatou (second from left) with Mr. Andrea De Maio, Director, EPLO's Technical Cooperation Department, Mr. Petros Katsimardos, Team Leader, Project Team members and EPLO's Technical Cooperation Department Staff, Mr. Emilio Fraleone, Deputy Ambassador of Italy, Head of the Economic, Commercial & Cultural Office, Dr. Roxane Gabriela Weber, Head of AICS Amman, and AICS's & IPA's executive staff, in IPA's premises, Amman, at the Steering Committee meeting, September 2023



Ms. Vasiliki Moustakatou (right), in IPA's premises, Amman, on Sunday, 12 May 2024, submitted the training material for the fully-fledged "Professional Diploma on Policy Making and Public Administration, to IPA's Assistant Director General, Eng. Hadeel Al Abdallat



Ms. Vasiliki Moustakatou (right standing), representing the Project Team at the "Train of Trainers Session for the Management of Projects funded by International Donors" in IPA's premises, Amman, in February 2024

On the initiative of the Director of EIMD, an agreement was signed on 15 January 2024 between EPLO and the Center for Lifelong Learning (KEDIVIM) "Easy Education", for the evaluation of the quality of the educational programs provided by the Center for the preparation of candidates to the ASEP's recruitment competitions for the Greek public sector. In the framework of this agreement, an original evaluation methodology and criteria were developed and implemented.



Following the positive evaluation of the Educational Program submitted by **"Easy Education" in April 2024**, the Center was granted the sign (left) to inform potential participants that its Program has passed a rigorous inspection by EPLO. The sign was elaborated by EIMG in close cooperation with EPLO's Legal and Marketing Departments to mark EPLO's assessment of educational programs as a symbol of the quality of their content and delivery.

Institute for Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation (IPRI)



Institute for Intellectual Property Rights & Innovation

The Institute for Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation (IPRI) was founded in November 2019. Its core objective is to support the international development of IP policy by reinforcing the study of Intellectual Property and innovation management. The members of the IPRI are personalities of high academic and professional qualifications and international recognition, including members from WIPO, EPO, and EUIPO.

Center for Gender and Equality Policy Studies (CEGEPS)



Center for Gender and Equality Policy Studies

The Center for Gender and Equality Policy Studies (CEGEPS) is an independent unit of the European Public Law Organization which, driven by documented research, intends to seek actions, institutional adjustments, and policies that promote human rights, equality, and social justice. It was founded in December 2020.

Conference “Women Who Dare – Women that change the world”

23 April 2024

The Center for Gender and Equality Policy Studies in collaboration with MRB conducted a survey on the topic: “Woman and Greek Society” that was presented by MRB CEO **Mr. Dimitris Mavros** during the event “Women Who Dare” at the Athens Concert Hall.

The President of the Board of CEGEPS and Minister of Tourism **Ms. Olga Kefalogianni** gave a welcome address and underlined the importance of such surveys. She pointed out that despite the progress in equality and awareness in gender-based violence, women have a long way to go to feel safe and equal in Greek society. During 2023, CEGEPS also launched its Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Institute for Transparency and Fundamental Rights



Institute for Transparency & Fundamental Rights

The Institute aims to promote the protection of fundamental rights in the European, international and comparative national space at scientific, social and political level, as well as the dialogue of cultures in this field.

Conference “The Rule of Law in view of the Covid-19 pandemic”

15 November 2023

The Institute for Transparency and Fundamental Rights and the Faculty of Law of the European University of Cyprus organized a conference on “The Rule of Law in view of the Covid-19 pandemic - The attitude of the judiciary” at the EPLO conference hall.



Institute for Global Health Emergencies Response (IGHER)



Institute for Global Health Emergencies Response (IGHER)

The **Institute for Global Health Emergencies Response (IGHER)** was established with a Decision of 19 November 2021, and it has its seat at the EPLO Headquarters in Rome.

IGHER aims to promote the research, development of studies, opinions, education, and training in the field of health emergencies of a global or multinational dimension.

The Director of IGHER is **Matteo Gnes**, full professor of Administrative Law and Deputy Director of the Law Department of the University of Urbino Carlo Bo (Italy). The field of interest of IGHER includes the study and research of situations characterized as global and/or international health emergencies to identify the instruments to be used for their management, the models of public communication, and the best practices used both at the legislative and administrative levels.

The members of the Advisory Council are **Antonio Bartolini** (full professor of Administrative Law at the University of Perugia, Italy), **Martina Conticelli** (full professor of Administrative Law at Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy), **Yiannis Drossos** (Professor emeritus of Constitutional Law at the Law School of Athens University, Greece), **Pascale Gonod** (Full Professor of Public Law at the Sorbonne Law School - the University of Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne, France), **Sanja Krestalica** (Assistant Professor in Public International Law and EU law at the Faculty of Law of The University of East Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina), **Elisenda Malaret i García** (Full Professor of Administrative Law at the Universidad de Barcelona, Spain), **Elisa Scotti** (Full Professor of Administrative Law at the University of Macerata, Italy).

In **2023**, the activities carried out by IGHER focused on the **“One Health Strategy”**, *i.e.* an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems, recognizing that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment are closely linked and interdependent (as stated by FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA, in the so-called quadripartite definition). Firstly, it cooperated with the **Global Pandemic Network – GPN** and the Universities of Urbino, Macerata, Rome La Sapienza, **UN-Habitat**, and the **International Institute of Administrative Studies (IIAS)**, in organizing the international conference **“One Health. Supranational, National and Regional Experiences”**, which took place, in hybrid mode, in Rome (at La Sapienza University, on **10 May**; and at the Museo Nazionale Romano - Palazzo Altemps, seat of the Italian Office of EPLO, on **11 May**; at Macerata University, on **13 May**; and at Urbino University, on **14 May**). Secondly, the Director of IGHER gave a report focusing on One Health at the Inaugural Ceremony and Official Opening of the EPLO Office in Rome, on **22 May 2024**.

During **2024**, IGHER is conducting negotiations to finalize cooperation agreements with various research institutions, such as the University of Urbino, to carry out joint research programs in the field of the One Health approach.



Inaugural Ceremony and Official Opening of the EPLO Office in Rome, on 22 May 2024



International Conference “One Health”- Museo Nazionale Romano - Palazzo Altemps, the seat of the EPLO Office in Rome, on 11 May 2024

European Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice System



Institute for Criminal Law & Criminal Justice System

The European Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice System is a late addition to EPLO's broad range of Institutes. It brings together leading scholars to explore central issues in classical criminal law doctrine as well as the philosophical foundations of criminal law. In particular, it is concerned with the doctrinal and philosophical analysis of contemporary problems in European criminal law and the law of individual European states

(including the UK). To this end, the Institute runs workshops and conferences. Furthermore, its statute foresees the possibility that the Institute will, in the near future, offer a taught postgraduate degree. The Institute operates as an autonomous unit of EPLO under the responsibility of its Director and Scientific Council. The Scientific Council includes 21 scholars of international reputation, from many different European jurisdictions, specializing in criminal law, the philosophy of criminal law, or theoretical criminology. **Ioannis Giannidis**, Professor Emeritus, is the Director of the Institute.

Institute of Sustainable Water Management and Water Law



Institute of Sustainable Water Management and Water Law

The Institute of Sustainable Water Management and Water Law is serving as a think tank and project leader on issues relevant to water management and law, aiming at offering support to governments and organizations in realizing the best practices for sustainable water management and identifying or creating the proper legal framework for ensuring appropriate and sustainable water use and distribution. The Institute's mission

is to help address water-related issues, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, by promoting cooperation between non-governmental organizations, governments, businesses, and other environmental policymakers, as well as the free exchange of information and public participation in decision-making. It seeks to be an important national and European partner in matters of water diplomacy and national and transnational crisis management regarding compliance with existing legislation and transnational water import and export agreements.

Director of the Institute is **Prof. Ioannis Katsoyiannis**, Assoc. Professor for Environmental Technology at the Department of Chemistry at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, President of the Association of Greeks and Associate Editor at the *Springer Journal of Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, academic visitor at the University of Ca' Foscari in Venice.

Workshop on "Water Reuse as a Pathway to Tackle Water Scarcity" 19 April 2024



View of the meeting room, in which the workshop of the project Water Rethink took place at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva

The **Institute of Sustainable Water Management and Water Law**, in cooperation with **Amb. George Papadatos**, EPLO Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, organized a workshop under the framework of the Water Rethink project, which is funded by the Greek Green Fund.

The workshop focused on an initiative aligned with the objectives of the United Nations, particularly those outlined in the United Nations Water Program. It specifically aimed to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6, which is dedicated to ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. This event addressed primarily the critical challenge of global water scarcity, emphasizing strategies to confront it, with a particular focus on wastewater reuse.

Also, under the framework of the Water Rethink project, the Institute organized a series of Workshops in Greece to highlight the importance of water reuse as a pathway to tackle water scarcity.

In particular, workshops have been organized in Thessaloniki (30 November 2023), in Volos (22 February 2024), and in Kavala (27 May). In June 2024, the Institute of Sustainable Water Management and Water Law organized a successful workshop at the premises of EPLO at the Roman Agora, which marked the closure of the Water Rethink project.



Professor I. Katsoyiannis (left) and Stathis Stathopoulos, Secretary General for Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Greece

Institute of Global Rule of Law (IGRoL)



Global Rule of Law Institute

In 2022, the EPLO established the **Institute of Global Rule of Law (IGRoL)**. Its mandate is to develop and promote the principles of the Rule of Law at an international scientific and educational level. The Institute's mission is gradually evolving under the scientific umbrella of the **EPLO Global Rule of Law Commission (GRoLC)**, through which it shall expand its activities. The Institute assists and supports

scientifically the Commission, follows its discussions and executes its decisions. It operates from the **EPLO Headquarters in Cascais** and is under the leadership of **Ms. Teresa Violante**. Her role is honorary and discretionary. The **EPLO Regional Branch in Cascais** provides administrative support to the Institute.

The EPLO IGRoL, in close cooperation with the EPLO ELGS, developed a Master's degree in the general field of the Global Rule of Law as described previously in the ELGS relevant chapter. The program will be available at the EPLO's Headquarters in Cascais, Portugal, starting from the academic year 2024-2025.

On 2 July, at the EPLO premises in Cascais, the Director of the GRoL Institute met with **Prof. Atalá Correia** from the Brazilian Institute of Education, Development and Research (IDP). They discussed the new Master's degree offered at the EPLO Cascais Campus and agreed to enhance their cooperation through joint educational activities involving the Brazilian Institute, the EPLO ELGS, and the EPLO GRoL Institute.

Rule of Law Report

In the year 2023-2024, the EPLO GRoL Institute had a crucial role in conducting research and preparing the **initial Rule of Law Report** with the full support and contribution of the **EPLO European Law and Governance School (ELGS)**. This report is a significant document scheduled to be presented by the EPLO GRoLC annually to the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee. The GRoLC deliberated and adopted the report during its 3rd working session on 11-12 January 2024, with the active participation of the EPLO GRoL Institute. In June 2024, the EPLO GRoLC submitted its first Report on the Rule of Law concerning Europe to the Secretariat of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly for dissemination among the Member States.

REI - Regional Environmental Institute



Regional Environmental Institute

The Institute operates as a think tank, an excellence hub, a platform for new thinking, and as a generator for actions and projects on issues related to the Environment and Climate Change. The mission of REI is to assist in addressing environmental issues mainly in Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, through the promotion of cooperation among non-governmental organizations, governments, businesses, and other environmental stakeholders, as

well as the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making. The strategic goal of REI is to assist beneficiary countries in solving environmental problems through (1) the implementation of projects (research and development, policy upgrade and implementation, technical assistance, capacity building projects, etc.), and (2) education. REI is directed by **Dr. Dejan Komatina**, Strategic Director, and **Dr. Rade Glomazic**, Executive Director.

NEW Institute for Regulatory Innovation, Delivery, and Effectiveness



Institute for
Regulatory
Innovation,
Delivery and
Effectiveness

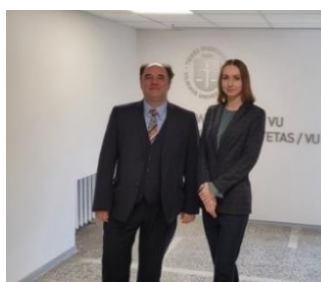
The Institute for Regulatory Innovation, Delivery and Effectiveness (IRIDE) of the EPLO was established in November 2023. IRIDE's mission is to promote the effective and efficient delivery of good-quality regulation based on international good practices. It reflects an outcomes-focused, evidence-driven, and risk-based approach to regulation, regulatory practices, and public service, delivery. The Director of the Institute is **Dr. Florentin Blanc**.

IRIDE has implemented advisory and technical assistance projects, participated in seminars and workshops and signed partnership agreements for cooperation. Two projects have been funded in which IRIDE was a partner in their scheme.

Project: Multi-Ministry Compliance Promotion and Compliance Modernization January-March 2024

IRIDE, in collaboration with **Optimus SBR**, provided technical assistance to the **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**, recommending good practices and approaches to conduct more effective inspections while enabling businesses to better comply with existing regulations. Additionally, the project included a transfer of knowledge meetings engaging esteemed international practitioners in regulatory inspections.

Collaborations and Events



In **April 2024**, **Dr. Florentin Blanc** delivered an online workshop titled **“European Business Regulation – The Main Elements of the Single Market”** to graduate students at the **Kyiv School of Economics**, covering diverse regulatory delivery approaches, and noting potential differences between countries.

Furthermore, **IRIDE** was invited by the **Law Faculty and the International Relations Office of Vilnius University** to discuss collaborative activities and short-term and long-term educational programs to promote regulatory delivery reform.

“Law and Regulation in Action: The Role of Enforcement in the Regulatory Life-Cycle” seminar at **LUMSA University of Rome, Italy**

On **28 May 2024**, Director **Dr. Florentin Blanc** was invited by **LUMSA University of Rome** to deliver a seminar on the effective achievement of regulatory goals in various public domains to students from the **European Master in Law and Economics (EMLE)**.

Within the same month, IRIDE participated in the workshop **“Rethinking the Institutions of Development: The Vital Transformation of Quality Infrastructure Ecosystems”** organized by **UNCTAD in Geneva**, with a presentation that delved into weaknesses of standardization and certification when rents are prioritized over real welfare.



Dr. Florentin Blanc meeting with Ms. **Indre Isokaite-Valuze**, Advisor, Law Faculty of Vilnius University, Lithuania

NEW Mediterranean Migration and Asylum Policy Hub (MEDMA)



The Mediterranean Migration and Asylum Policy Hub (MedMA) is an agency of the EPLO established in 2022. It aspires to build bridges between knowledge production, fieldwork and policy-making. MedMA's strategic approach is anchored in three core pillars: *Research, Engagement, and Influence*. Through these channels, we aim to enhance policy

understanding, foster best practices, and navigate common challenges across the Mediterranean.

Our goal is to reimagine the way our region addresses migration, by providing direct technical assistance and crafting actionable policy recommendations to effectively address the complex challenges of migration and integration.

MEDMA Inauguration Event

26 March 2024

The Mediterranean Migration & Asylum Policy Hub celebrated its inauguration in Greece, with an event on Greek migration and asylum policy. It was a timely discussion, inspired by the political agreement on the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, featuring politicians who have played a pivotal role in managing the arrival and integration of migrant and refugee populations during critical moments in Greece.

Speakers: **Prokopis Pavlopoulos**, former President of the Hellenic Republic, Academic; **Louka Katseli**, Professor Emerita, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, former Minister of Labor & Social Security; **Yannis Mouzalas**, Doctor, former Minister of Migration Policy; **Dimitris Vitsas**, former Alternate Minister of National Defense & former Minister of Migration Policy; **Notis Mitarachi**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament for Chios, former Minister of Citizen Protection & former Minister of Migration and Asylum; **Christos Papoutsis**, former Commissioner of the European Union, former Minister of the Greek Government, former Member of the Board of the World Bank Group; **Dimitris Kairidis**, Minister of Migration and Asylum at the time.



MedMA inaugural event at the EPLO premises

Workshop “A collaborative approach for migration policy advocacy in the Balkan region”

15-16 April 2024, Bosnia & Herzegovina

The Mediterranean Migration & Asylum Policy Hub of the EPLO held a workshop on “A collaborative approach for migration policy advocacy in the Balkan region”, hosted by the **District Assembly of Brčko** in Bosnia & Herzegovina, on 15-16 April. The Workshop brought together practitioners, academics, and civil society representatives from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia and aspired to contribute to the ongoing Balkan dialogue on key aspects of migration and asylum policy along the Balkan route, to identify common challenges, best practices and pitfalls, and to provide space for reflection on areas of potential trans-Balkan collaboration. The workshop was initiated by the President of the Brčko District Assembly, **Siniša Milić**;



Opening remarks, Brčko Workshop

Prof. Dr. Goran Marković, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of East Sarajevo; and **Dr. Markos Karavias**, Director of MedMA. Human rights lawyers, academics and civil society representatives, including **Aleksandra Cvetanovska**, **Dr. Eda Gemi**, **Gordana Grujičić**, **Vasilis Kerasiotis**, **Diana Radoslavova**, **Hektor Ruci**, delivered presentations on legal pathways and integration, as well as externalization practices in the region.

MedMA at the Rome Conference “Reform of the State in Light of New Challenges”

22 May 2024, Rome, Italy

Prominent politicians, policy leaders and scholars joined a panel discussion titled “The Challenge of Migration, with a focus on Regional Approaches to Migration and Asylum Policy”. The conference marked the inauguration of the European Public Law Organization (EPLA) office in Rome.

Chair: Prof. Mario Savino, Tuscia University of Viterbo; **Special Guest Speakers: H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca**, former President of the Republic of Cape Verde; **H.E. Mr. Josip Brkić**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Speakers: Prof. Kristin Fabbe**, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, **Mr. Vincent Cochetel**, Special Envoy for the Western & Central Mediterranean Situation; **Mr. Gianluca Rocco**, Director of International Organization for Migration Mission in Greece; **Dr. Markos Karavias**, Director, Mediterranean Migration Policy and Asylum Hub, EPLO.



Panel on the challenges of migration, Rome

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