



#1

July
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Launch of the project

How to facilitate the exchange of best practices between training centres for future lawyers in Europe ?

At a time when the rule of law is increasingly threatened in Europe, the training of lawyers, and particularly young and future lawyers, on European Union laws is still very marginal and not yet sufficient. The European Union therefore launched a call for projects based on the need for European training centres to work together and to share their respective good practices.

This resulted in the LITEL project (Lawyers Initial Training on EU Law), a unique initiative that paves the way for the creation of a proper network of lawyers in Europe. This first event was rich in meetings, reflection and initiated the very conception of a project that will be spread over a period of 23 months.

Enriched by visits and co-design workshops, LITEL brought all the participants together in April at the EFB for the first study visit of the project!

AGENDA

April 2023

Study visit to the EFB, Paris: presentation of training systems

September 2023

Study visit to the Law Society of Ireland, Dublin: training methods

March 2024

Study visit to the Czech Bar Association, Prague: EU law training

September 2024

Study visit and conclusion at CICAC, Barcelona: gender equality in the legal profession



STUDY VISIT - FOCUS ON THE EFB



Initiating the project and meeting the participants

03/04/2023 and 04/04/2023

On April 3rd & 4th, the project participants, together with a selection of guests, met at the Ecole de Formation des Barreaux in Paris. This first visit was dedicated to discussing the different training systems, to the presentation of existing tools, as well as the difficulties faced by all centres.



Day 1

03/04/2023

Hosted by the EFB, this day was an opportunity for participants to meet and compare their practices and training programmes, during presentations and exchanges that punctuated the various sessions. Some innovations specific to certain centres were also the subject of a particular focus, such as the e-training module presented by the Inns Court College of Advocacy, the EFB Lab - and the Talent and Innovation Module as well as the EFB Legal Clinic; all of them tools at the service of the learning and training of future lawyers.



Day 2

03/04/2023

The second day was an opportunity for participants to work together on understanding the challenges of training adults and future lawyers, in a workshop facilitated by Otilia Stefania Pacurari, a specialist in adult education and training methods in the justice sector. The scientific committee then met in a second hybrid workshop (with some participants in person and others attending via videoconference), to reflect together on how best to collaborate and move forward on designing the modules for the Rule of Law and the Fundamental Charter of Rights of the European Union.

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

The main challenge will be defining the material and content of the modules that will be used by all training centres, as each centre and country has its own specific teaching methods. It will therefore be necessary to find common ground on the content and on the methods of dissemination of the material collected. This workshop provided an opportunity to establish priorities, especially in terms of methodology, and participants should now reflect on the topics to be covered in these modules, as well as on practical case examples, which will help to anchor the content in practice and the applicability of :

- The Fundamental Charter of Rights of the European Union: How to use the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union? How to apply it in legal practice ? Why use it and not the European Convention on human Rights ?
- The rule of law: how to reconcile the practical and technical aspects of the rule of law, while making this training accessible to all from a practical point of view, and applicable to the legal practice of lawyers ?

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACKS

Barbara Clauss, Head of the EFB International Department:



As the Director of International Relations at EFB, Barbara reflects on the origins of the project and the challenges of this first meeting. Aware of the challenges of training, and with the support of Mr Gilles Accomando, Director of the EFB, she is now in charge of coordinating the LITEL project, with the aim of reinforcing the training on European Union law, and of "creating a link between the partner training centres and those we invite".



However, the task is not an easy one : "it will be difficult to get four different nationalities to work on a common subject but I would really like everyone to be able to express themselves within the framework of this project to propose something and to prepare Dublin together, which will be the next stage of the project in September".

Claire o'Mahony, Head of the diploma center at the Law Society of Ireland:



"The focus on EU law training is definitely needed. The main benefit of the project is collaborating with other lawyers and talents, and other training institutions throughout the EU". Claire acknowledged the benefits of being able to meet directly with other participants and is convinced that " the product of the outcome will be great ".

Lucie Dolanska Banyaiova, Lawyer, Member of the board of Directors of the Czech Bar Association:



Lucie outlined her expectations for the project: "I am hoping to have some insight on different means of tutoring the topic of European law and [...]it would be helpful for legal trainees to have a practical perspective on how European law is implemented on the European legal system, how they and their clients can benefit from it, how to work within the European legal system."

Imma Sane, Head of the CICAC International and Human Rights department, Member of LITEL consortium team:



At the heart of the LITEL project from the very beginning, Imma stressed how "important it was to know how the lawyer's training system works in other countries and see what we can improve in our own system. Collaborating in European project is always enriching, for the centers, but also for the lawyers". She took this two-day meeting as an opportunity to remind the importance of transposing the theoretical aspects of the training into practical and applicable terms for students who are often already familiar with this European legal framework, but who do not yet have the reflex to use it as a reference for their daily work.

Olesea Plotnic, Lawyer and trainer within Lawyers Training Center, Moldova Bar Association:



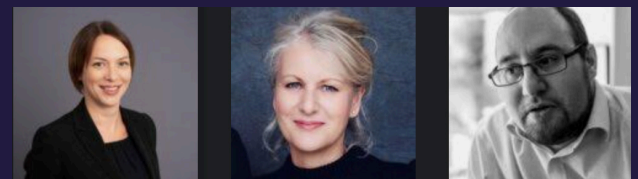
Olesea shared her great enthusiasm for taking part in exchanges around LITEL, and in building up exchanges between the various centres, and mentioned the "possibility of developing relations between the centres, or between the Bars Associations, to exchange trainers".

Ariane-Matthieu Nougoua, EFB student and president of the Legal Clinic:



Ariane-Matthieu was there to present the EFB's Legal Clinic, a tool made available to student lawyers so that they can practice law in a safe and supervised environment. She emphasised the importance of "the convergence of training centres at European level, which are interested in the way student lawyers are trained". She also expects from LITEL "to provide more information on European training courses, so that we can be able to put into perspective what we learn at the EFB [...]; it would be very interesting to have more guidance on European law matters".

Members of the ICCA : Lynda Gibbs KC, Jane Hutton and Patrick Ryan:



LITEL was also able to count on the presence of three members of the Inns of Court College of Advocacy, from London, who came to present their e-learning programme. This system could provide the members of the project with useful ideas, as "it is a good way to deliver materials across the centers and countries and [...] it is good for teaching applicational knowledge". They also expressed an interest in studying the "differences and similarities in law training in Europe".

Funded by the European Commission, LITEL (Lawyers Initial Training on EU Law), was launched in 2023 with the objectives of forging links between those involved in the initial training of lawyers in Europe, sharing good teaching practices, encouraging the emergence of future actions, and increasing the training in EU law of future and young lawyers.

The project is mainly built around two key components that will take place over the 23 months of the project:

- Study visits between the training centres focusing on a specific theme of the European rule of law as well as on the sharing of tools and good practices,
- The development of two training modules on EU Law: the achievements of the Rule of Law, and the invocability of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

PARTNER TRAINING CENTRES



The Czech Bar Association is the national bar association in the Czech Republic. It is in charge of training lawyers.



The Law Society of Ireland has representative, regulatory and educational functions in relation to solicitors in Ireland.



The Catalan Bar Council is responsible for the general representation and defence of the profession in Catalonia and for coordinating the professional associations of which it is composed.



The EFB, the Ecole de Formation Professionnelle des Barreaux within the jurisdiction of the Paris Court of Appeal, is the largest of the eleven bar schools in France. It provides initial and continuing training for lawyers within its jurisdiction.

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