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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Project number: 2014-1-LV01-KA203-000506

E-Book

«Mediation to Foster European Wide Settlement of Disputes»

Introduction

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1. About project

Erasmus + Strategic Partnership project number *2014-1-LV01-KA203-000506* is based on cooperation among four universities, who already during 2013 and 2014 cooperated in another Erasmus programme, dedicated to mediation. Taking into account the experience and specialization of each partner university and their teachers, the new project with a title „*Development of Mediation Network in Civil and Criminal Cases to foster European Wide Settlements of Disputes*“ was envisaged. The project lasted from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2016. The authors of the articles completed their chapters by the November 2015, therefore any further developments might not be covered in these articles.

During the previous project „*Mediation in Civil and Criminal Cases to Foster European Wide Settlement of Disputes*“, the partner universities came to the conclusion that students of the EU countries as well as the governmental and non-governmental organizations working in judicial sector lack academic and practical study materials and a comprehensive textbook on mediation. Therefore the project team decided to gather information on needs of involved benefiting institutions and bodies in order to be addressed them within the scope of the present project.

Projects were unique and innovative, as never before a multinational team of academics with Law and Psychology backgrounds have created a collaborative work and study materials to be used by students, governmental and non-governmental institutions and academic bodies. Therefore the project was intended as fresh initiative to provide students and practitioners with wide information and theory materials.

2. Participants of the project

Universities from four countries – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Italy – participated in the project. All partner universities previously cooperated in 2013-2014 within the scope of the Erasmus programme on mediation. Trustworthiness of all partners and involved teachers and academics was verified in prior cooperation, as well as their ability to undertake a more profound academic work.

Biznesa augstskola Turība (Latvia) is a modern private higher educational institution actively participating in international research projects and accepting the largest number of foreign students in Latvia. Dana Rone is herself a certified mediator, lecturer and sworn advocate with significant experience in multinational projects on EU law, Inheritance law, Mediation, Civil Procedure Law, Insurance and Advocacy. She has published articles about mediation and lectured on mediation in the seminars organised by the Latvian Ministry of Justice.

Tallinna Tehnikakool (Estonia) is a higher educational institution of Estonia implementing a modern study approach in the area of dispute resolution. Maria Claudia Solarte Vasquez is a teacher having unique experience in working in Spain, Estonia and Colombia. She has prepared and coordinated a full specialization programme in Colombia and supported creation of the well-recognized dispute resolution institution of EAFIT university. Tanel Kerkimae has prominent experience related to mediation: he has been a component leader for EU project in Central Asia, and legal expert to international organizations. He is currently responsible for several trainings to IMO office, as well as responsible coordinator of public debate and coordinated discussions on various EU issues. Tarmo Tuisk is a sociologist and lecturer in the Tallinn Tehnikakool, Department of International Relations: he researches role of nationality and culture in conflict management.

Università degli Studi di Genova (Italy) is a classic Western-European university actively participating in innovative research projects on Maintenance Recovery (2007-2008), Civil Justice (2008-2009), Application of Foreign Law (2009-2010), Brussels I Regulation (2009-2011) etc. Laura Carpaneto has conducted researches in Spain, Germany and Italy and has thus acquired experience in cultural aspects of dispute resolution. Chiara Cellerino has acquired her PhD in EU external relations and law and is the right teacher to explain EU vision on dispute resolution. Francesco Pesce is experienced legal researcher in European law and has notable skills in working with multinational audience. Elena Giulia Montorsi and Stefano Dominelli have significant academic experience in family mediation and psychological aspects of mediation procedure.

Vilniaus universitetas (Lithuania) is the oldest and best known university in Lithuania that strongly supports its teachers in academic work. This university is famous also for its tradition to maintain cooperation not only with the western part of the Europe, but also with neighbouring countries of the ex-USSR. This tradition results in wide knowledge about developments in the area of dispute resolution under different legal regimes and cultural traditions. Lecturer Vigita Vėbraitė has acquired her PhD in Civil Procedure Law and is highly qualified in theoretical aspects of litigation and introduction of mediation in national laws. Lecturer Neringa Toleikyte is a practicing lawyer and teacher, specialising in issues related to the lawyer's role in the process of mediation.

Each partner institution has been actively involved in drafting of this book and improving chapters elaborated by the colleagues.

3. Aims of the project

The objective of the project was to create a multinational network of academics and to establish a closely cooperating team, to prepare teaching materials for mediation studies and to organize mediation course for multinational group of students. The project directly addressed needs of four groups – students of law and of psychology, governmental institutions working in the area of justice, non-governmental organizations supporting amicable settlement of disputes and academics teaching mediation courses. The overarching aim was to create solid academic basis for promotion of mediation, thus minimizing the workload of courts in the European Union Member States and promoting mediation as a method of alternative dispute resolution.

4. Methodology

The book is a compendium of articles elaborated by teachers of all the partner universities. The contents and sequence of all the articles is approved by unanimity by the project team. Each article can be read on its own. The aim of the authors of the book was to collect in a single edition a wide range of articles on subjects directly related to mediation. Therefore the reader has a choice to select either an article on subject of his interest, or to explore all the articles, thus getting acquainted with a broad spectrum of application of mediation tools in law, culture and psychology.

In addition to the articles published in the book, each author has also elaborated supplementary materials – either Power Point presentations or distributive materials for the students, as well as self-

evaluation questions. These materials are available on internet, on the web pages of each university: www.turiba.lv, www.unige.it, www.vu.lt and www.ttu.ee. It is advisable for readers of each article also to use these additional materials for better understanding or any particular subject matter.