

**Reference about the E-Book
“Mediation to Foster European Wide Settlement of Disputes”**

The E-Book on mediation is created according to the best academic standards and it will certainly play significant role in the European Union as profound resource of the essential mediation aspects. The authors of the book have gathered in one team thanks to the Erasmus + Strategic Partnership project No. *2014-1-LV01-KA203-000506* „Development of Mediation Network in Civil and Criminal Cases to foster European Wide Settlements of Disputes“. The authors are academics, practicing lawyers, psychologists and mediators from four universities and countries – Turība University (Latvia), Vilnius University (Lithuania), Tallinn Technical University (Estonia) and Genoa University Genova (Italy). Broad view to the mediation from various perspectives guarantees to the readers rich informative material about mediation as modern and alternative tool for settlement of disputes.

The book embraces comprehensive and at the same time concentrated scope of subjects on mediation. This book is prepared taking into account current necessity of the students and academics, practicing lawyers and mediators, as well as governmental organizations and NGOs for new study materials. The newest conclusions and tendencies in mediation are reflected in the chapters of the book, which provides fresh, but still in theory grounded look to this ADR method.

After the first chapter, in which introduction of the book and background of the project is explained, follow eight voluminous chapters, two of which is divided into subchapters. In the second chapter the authors Dana Rone, Vigita Vebraite, Maria Claudia Solarte Vasquez and Francesco Pesce presents legal regulation of mediation and description of involved institutions in all four partner countries – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Italy. Positive words can be said about structure of these four subchapters, as they are prepared according to equal standards which safeguards convenient and comparable perception of their contents. The authors are consecutively elaborated on normative sources of mediation regulation, mediation organizations in the country, basic terms and definitions, triggering of mediation, regulation of mediation process, recognition and accreditation of mediators, confidentiality and admissibility of mediation evidence, mediated outcomes and enforceability, duties and obligations during mediation, expected developments in mediation regulation and available statistics on mediation. This chapter is of comparative nature and can be effectively used in further research works.

In the third chapter the author Maria Claudia Solarte Vasquez provides introduction to conflict management and dispute resolution. This chapter forms perfect basis for further, more detailed chapters. In the fourth chapter the author Tarmo Tuisk explains the role of nationality and culture in conflict management. This is truly significant chapter taking into account multicultural environment of the European Union, and necessity to consider possible diversity during mediation process. In the fifth chapter, which is the largest chapter to speak about volume, the academics from Genoa University have elaborated on international and EU perspective of mediation. Francesco Pesce has completed notable legal research on mediation and fundamental right to access to justice. Laura Carpaneto has analyzed European Mediation Directive, presenting analysis on EU law and this directive. Reaching for even more transnational aims the author Chiara Cellerino has elaborated the chapter on mediation as a tool for the pacific settlement of international disputes, and the author Ilaria Queirolo – on mediation and private international law. The author Stefano Dominelli has considered a fact that mediation is also irreplaceable in cases where the parties can't physically be present during sessions of mediation. Therefore legal regulation of these situations are explicitly researched in the chapter about online mediation and digital agenda. Moreover considering ever raising number of cross border family ties, marriages included, the author Stefano Dominelli has analyzed legal aspects of cross border family mediation. All in all the fifth chapter of the book is significant judicial research on legal aspects of mediation.

Mediation is structured process and success of mediation depends on *inter alia* how precise and completely the mediation has discovered situation, interests, values, aims and solutions of the parties in each phase of the mediation. Therefore in the sixth chapter of the book the author Dana Rone describes phases of mediation. Principles of mediation are recognized and names both in the European Mediation Directive, and national normative enactments. The author Neringa Toleikyte analysis these principles, thus providing readers with explicit catalogue of them. It is well known fact that excellent theoretical knowledge in mediation still does not guarantee success in mediation practice. Therefore in the eighth chapter of the book the author Dana Rone describes the most common skills and tools of the mediator, thus inviting future and current mediators to raise their experience. In the conclusion of the book the author Elena Giulia Montorsi offers in the ninth chapter substantial psychological description for aspects of one of the most popular fields in mediation – family mediation.

This E-Book is very topical, in theory based and practice orienteered research on a number of aspects directly and indirectly related to mediation, covering fields of law, psychology

and management. The book is indeed suitable material for students of all faculties in the curriculum of which conflict resolution, litigation and ADR methods are included. It is also irreplaceable material for academics, further education and preparation bar and mediation exams. Also subjects analyzed in the chapters are valuable for governmental and municipal institutions, as well as NGOs, which are related to settlement of disputes in amicable way.

The E-Book “Mediation to Foster European Wide Settlement of Disputes” popularizes mediation, and it can positively affect reduction of the workload in courts of the EU Member States, thus reaching the aim to review disputes in the shortest possible terms.