

Inter-university Research Activities

Centre for the Law of EU External Relations CLEER

CLEER's ambition is to stimulate excellence in research, reflection and teaching in EU external relations studies in higher education institutions within and outside the Union and to promote innovative solutions to practical challenges to the external dimension of the EU's legal order.

In 2013 CLEER was awarded a Jean Monnet grant for the proposal entitled ' Human security as a new operational framework for enhancing human rights protection in the EU's Security and Migration policies'. In the face of high competition for EU funding (595 applications), CLEER was selected for EU co-financing, with a top score of 85%.

This grant will enable CLEER to implement its research project aimed at facilitating academic interaction in closely interrelated areas of EU external conduct, creating synergies between and raising awareness of global security concerns. The project will also serve to gather the now distinct and separate research areas under one heading and facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive and operational framework contributing to the overall assessment of the EU's role in tackling challenges stemming from emerging crises.

CLEER organised 5 conferences/workshops /lectures and 1 Summer School, and published 6 new issues of its CLEER working papers series:

CLEER WP 2013/1 "EEAS 2.0: A legal commentary on Council Decision 2010/427/EU establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service" by S. Blockmans and C. Hillion.

CLEER WP 2013/2 "The role of the European Parliament in the conclusion of the Transatlantic Agreements on the transfer of personal data after Lisbon" by Juan Santos Vara.

CLEER WP 2013/3 "The European Union's relations with the Southern-Mediterranean in the aftermath of the Arab Spring " by G. Fernandez Arribas, K. Pieters and T. Takács (eds.).

CLEER WP 2013/4 "Linking trade and non-commercial interests: the EU as a global role model?" by Tamara Takács, Andrea Ott and Angelos Dimopoulos.

CLEER WP 2013/5 "EU Environmental norms and third countries: The EU as a global role model?" by Wybe Th. Douma and Steffen van der Velde.

CLEER WP 2013/6 "Trade liberalisation and standardisation – new directions in the 'low politics' of EU foreign policy" by Marise Cremona and Tamara Takács.

CLEER WP 2013/7 "EU agencies and their international mandate: A new category of global actors?" by Andrea Ott, Ellen Vos and Florin Coman-Kund.

The International Humanitarian and Criminal Law (IHCL) Platform

The International Humanitarian and Criminal Law (IHCL) Platform was established in 2010 and it consists of representatives from the T.M.C. Asser Instituut (which coordinates the Platform), the University of Amsterdam (in particular the Amsterdam Center for International Law), the VU University Amsterdam and Leiden University (in particular the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies).

The objective of the IHCL Platform is “to establish an academic network fostering research in the area of international criminal law and humanitarian law, providing an academic platform for discussion of relevant contemporary issues and legal questions for which there is, as yet, no fixed jurisprudential position”.

This important goal is realised through the Platform’s activities. In 2013, the IHCL Platform (co-) organised three main events, namely:

- The high-level, 2-day Symposium ‘The Boundaries of the Battlefield: A Critical Look at the Legal Paradigms and Rules in Countering Terrorism’ (10 and 11 January 2013). For more information, see the final report [here](#).
- The second IHCL Platform PhD Day (28 June 2013), where PhD students from the participating universities and other interested parties could present their research (in progress), which was commented upon by experts in the field.
- The book launch *Armed Conflict and International Law: In Search of the Human Face. Liber Amicorum in Memory of Avril McDonald* (15 October 2013).

Inter-University Research in International Sports Law (IRIS)

Facilitated by Academic Programme Coordinator, Karen L. Jones, JD, MA, 2012 - 2013, *Inter-University Research in International Sports Law (IRIS)* was established with the following mission:

IRIS is a research cooperative community consisting of respected universities and institutions that have come together to promote excellence in research and provide a platform for debate by academics and practitioners in international, European and comparative sports law to universities, government, associations, federations, clubs, corporations and the sports community.

IRIS consists of representatives from the following universities within the Benelux: Leiden University, University of Amsterdam, Free University of Amsterdam, Tilburg University, and KU Leuven University. The first annual meeting was held on Thursday 3 February 2012. Meeting notes were distributed to the *IRIS* members. The *IRIS* name was agreed by the Board Members. It was further agreed to try to convene some sort of *IRIS* activity in 2012. A further outcome of that meeting was a general agreement on the content of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), general agreement to cooperate with Asser and support activities, and agreement that signing of a MoU by the participants was not necessary, at this time; primarily due to the fact that the members preferred an informal relationship, and signing would require undue red tape within the respective universities. Several update notes were sent to *IRIS* throughout the year.

The following activities were engaged and included participants of the *IRIS* cooperative:

- Summer Programme on International Sports Law¹
- Lunch & Learn November presentation on “Third acquisition and scope of economic rights of a football player” presented by IRIS member Roberto Branco Martins
- Offer has been extended to engage and enlist other IRIS members (e.g. Utrecht University)

¹ The Summer Programme on International Sports Law (SPISL) 2013 was the first in the history of the Asser International Sports Law Centre, and had the support of the IRIS members. The SPISL was well attended by 17 participants. Four (4) IRIS members participated as presenters during the Programme.

The 2014 proposed activities for *IRIS* Collaboration include:

- Collaborative paper to be published in the International Sports Law Journal² (ISLJ) as a product of the SPISL, to include IRIS member(s) as reviewing editor(s).
- Lunch & Learn January 2014 on International and Comparative Sports Justice presented by former IRIS member Michele Colucci and Karen L. Jones.
- Summer Programme on International Sports Law.
- Lunch & Learn and Seminars throughout the year.

There is general support within and amongst the *IRIS* members. However, enthusiasm for formal engagement in an active Inter-University consortium by the identified universities, primarily those that form the Benelux, is limited. Greater efforts are being made to engage and enlist new members to IRIS, even extending outside of the Benelux (e.g. Europe, United States, etc.). The Summer Programme and ongoing Lunch & Learn series, as well as other educational and academic activities engaged by IRIS members have provided good support for ongoing collaboration.

IRIS has been in discussions, developed cooperatives and entered into MoU with other organisations in 2013 and continues to seek opportunities for mutual engagement – to collaborate in various areas such as researcher exchange, visiting students, collaborative research. In 2013, we hosted two PhD students, one from Lithuania and the other from Denmark.

² The ISLJ is an important tool for the university cooperative. With its 110 (and growing) subscribers, a lot of work has been undertaken this past year to strengthen the ISLJ so that it can properly support an inter-university cooperative. A successful proposal and contract was achieved to transition ISLJ publishing to Asser Press/Springer-Verlag Publishing (effective 1 January 2013). Beginning in 2012, a formal Peer-review process was incorporated utilising the ISLJ Board members. The Editorial and Advisory Boards were re-engaged and clear roles/responsibilities were established. The table of contents and overall contents of the ISLJ were stream-lined, and extraneous advertisements were removed from the ISLJ to make it more in line with other legal journals. We identified a new Editor-in-Chief to begin as of 1 January 2013 – Jack Anderson. Karen L. Jones remains as managing editor of the ISLJ.