



# IACPIL

Interdisciplinary Association of  
Comparative and Private International Law

## **IACPIL as associated Partner in Erasmus Multilateral Project “AMELIE”**

**Report from Mag. Jürgen Busch, LL.M. / D.E.A. (Brussels)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 saw the commencement of Erasmus Multilateral Project “AMELIE”. AMELIE stands for the “Advanced Master of the European Academy of Legal Theory in European Legal Culture and Jurisprudence”. The IACPIL acts as an associated Partner to the project joining a number of well-known, leading international institutions, that provide guidance and support to the project (amongst others: Sciences Po/Paris, Oxford University, Max-Planck-Institute for European Legal History Frankfurt/Main). With this project, the EU is fostering two years of development within the framework of the Programme for Life-Long Learning in the form of Joint European Masters-Programmes. This is based on an initiative that began in 1992 with Belgian universities of the renowned LLM-Programmes of the European Academy of Legal Theory (EALT). Starting with the academic year 2012/13, the goal and purpose of the project is to realign the Academy course with a new curriculum, new content and offer several European locations. Each year, postgraduate students from all corners of the world will be given the opportunity to study in an international, cross-cultural und interdisciplinary environment to deepen their knowledge on fundamental and cross-discipline legal questions, which have significant meaning in an increasingly Europeanized und globalized world.

The course is aimed at both young researchers from legal and adjacent disciplines and those practicing lawyers, who face the challenge of solving complex, legal problems in an interdisciplinary and international context. Theory and practice will complement each other, in order to convey the necessary theoretical approaches for legal practice to the course participants. **Comparative Studies** and **Conflict of Laws** will play a key role here. As well as a compulsory module on the fundamentals of legal theory, the course offers another **compulsory module on the Internationalisation of Law and Comparative Law**. In addition to these main lectures, the course participants have the opportunity to pursue a specific interest in a series of optional subjects, in which the practical relevance of the theoretical background will, in particular, be conveyed and analysed. Flexibility, mobility and international experience are portrayed as important criteria. The course has both optional and obligatory mobility periods, which will lead to the award of a Double Degree (a LL.M. in the case of most involved Partner universities) after the development of a Masters thesis.

Six European partner universities form the core of the project consortium:

- The **University of Vienna**, in conjunction with **Frankfurt/Main University** und **Luzern University**, will host the first semester of lectures (university rotation, beginning in WS 2012 at the University of Vienna).
- The **University of Brussels (ULB)** and the **Jagiellonian University in Krakow** will be responsible for the second academic semester in each year.
- Following completion of the first academic semester with 30 ECTS, the students change location, completing the course at a partner university (end of lectures in June) and finalise their Masters thesis in the summer. In preparation for that, they will complete a specific research seminar at the **University of Stockholm**. This course, established as an Erasmus Intensive programme, provides participants with compensation for their travel and stay costs for the two-week seminar module.

Furthermore, there is also the possibility (on a voluntary basis), to complete the Masters thesis at one of the AMELIE-Partner universities or at one of the centres for excellence within the partner network of EALT. This includes the European Institute in Florence, Oxford University and the Freie Universität Berlin.

As the project coordinating partner institution, the University of Vienna established a university course according to § 56 UG (a two-semester LLM and, for non-legal scholars, a three-semester MLS of Legal Theory), in addition to the Academy-Masters. This opportunity also brought the establishment of a cooperative programme with City University Hong Kong. Therefore, from the academic year 2012/13, the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna can offer the opportunity to study an international, **English language LLM-Programme on Legal Theory in three options:**



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**1. Local option:** Graduation with a Vienna University LLM wholly completed in Vienna;

**2. Mobility option A:** Graduation with an EALT Double Degree-Masters within the AMELIE-Consortium with one semester spent in Vienna and a semester spent at an AMELIE-Partner university;

**3. Mobility option B:** Graduation with a Vienna University LLM with one semester spent in Vienna and one semester spent at the City University Hong Kong.

During the course of the AMELIE-Project (October 2011 until September 2012) the official representative of the associated partners may take part in international project meetings in an advisory role. For consultation purposes, the project will invite diverse representatives and members of associated partners for expert opinions and/or evaluations.

As soon as the course has begun in Vienna, it should, in conjunction with the **IACPIL**, organise lecture programmes and in doing so, establish a platform for exchange – as a way to stimulate Masters research, cooperation etc – between the members of the IACPIL and the course participants. Further, the activities of the IACPIL and the course should mutually apply to each other. So, the public presentation of the AMELIE-Projects at this year's IVR World congress of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in August in Frankfurt/Main, will introduce the associated Partners and their activities to a wider global audience.

The Chairperson of the IACPIL, Prof. Bea Verschraegen acts also as Chair of the Advisory Board of the Vienna University Master Program of Legal Theory. The IACPIL Board Member Jürgen Busch directs the AMELIE project and coordinates the Viennese Masters Program. Several more IACPIL – Members will work on the project and on lectures held in Vienna.

Current and further information on the running of the project and regarding the LLM-Programme is not only available on the Postgraduate pages of the relevant partnered university but also on the Homepage of EALT: [www.legaltheory.eu](http://www.legaltheory.eu)