

**Rotterdam Network Meeting, Vilnius**  
**10-13 May 2007**  
**Mykolas Romeris University**

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**Chairman:** Prof. Jaap de Zwaan

**Present:**

Teija Isotalo (Helsinki), Dr. John Finlay (Glasgow), Veronique Christophe (Ghent), Birgitta Edebalk (Lund), Marie Brink (Lund), Dr. Christopher Bisping (Warwick), Dr. Christine Byron (Manchester), Prof. Eduard Somers (Ghent), Dr. Anthony Chamboredon (Paris), Prof. Josef Bejcek (Brno), Dr. Maria Patakyova (Bratislava), Dr. Edith Hainisch (Bratislava), Laura Ripoll (Girona), Prof. Francine Esteve (Girona), Prof. Alberto Maffi (Milano), Corti Cinzia (Milano), Marcus Merkel (Konstanz), Prof Jaap de Zwaan (Rotterdam), Anette van Sandwijk (Rotterdam), Augustina Dumitrascu (Bucharest), Dr. Irmgard Rath-Kathrein (Innsbruck), Prof. Gérard Legier (Aix en Provence), Majken Hjort (Copenhagen), Helle Nørregaard Thulstrup (Copenhagen), Prof. Marta Dezso (Budapest), Andrea Robotka (Budapest), Paulo de Sousa Mendes, Prof Suzana Kraljic (Maribor), Jan Erik Hatling (Bergen), Anne Lise Arnesen (Bergen), Asta Edda Jonsdottir (Reykjavik), Dr Jakub Urbanik (Warsaw), Prof. Haluk Kabaalioglu (Istanbul), Dr Oleg fedosiuk (Vilnius), Audra Dargyte Burokiene (Vilnius),

**Absent:**

Stockholm, Salamanca, Sofia (all with notice)

**1. Opening:**

Welcome by professor Juozas Zilys, Dean. He emphasized all the positive aspects of having an Erasmus Programme and having this network. For Mykolas Romeris University, internationalization is very important.

Prof Jaap de Zwaan opens the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rotterdam Network Meeting. He suggests the idea of adding a new component to the Rotterdam Law Network. For example; Rotterdam is willing to host a conference on a joint topic.

**2. Assessment exchanges:**

After the agenda was established, each representative of the present universities introduced himself/herself, explained his/her role and informed those present regarding the exchanges of students. For most universities the number of incoming and outgoing exchange students is imbalanced and there is a decline in the number of students going to Europe. Other problems indicated were the levels of the students (background) and level of language. Many universities stressed the importance for exchange students of starting at the beginning of the semester.

This meeting is very good for (maintaining) personal contacts. Many universities showed and shared the interest of organizing a conference.

Partneruniversity	Balance/inbalance	Remarks
Paris Descartes	Number of outgoing students is going up, number of incoming students is fluctuating.	<b>New name: Paris Descartes.</b> All courses are open to exchange students. Common Law, a degree programme is taught in English (tuition EUR 400). Students can also follow modules without paying, they will then receive a certificate
Innsbruck	Incoming<outgoing	Irmgard Rath-Kathrein is the informal Erasmus coordinator. Courses are taught in German. They offer a Law and Economics programme. They also offer Italian Law and many more.
Budapest	Incoming<outgoing	They offer a joint LL.M. degree with a German university and a Summer programme in cooperation with Suffolk University (Boston), 3 summers = ll.m. degree. Courses in English sometimes French and German.
Glasgow	Incoming<Outgoing	Wide range of law courses. Morna Roberts will be advising incoming students.
Helsinki	± balanced	60 courses taught in English. They offer Finnish language courses.
Bucharest	Incoming<Outgoing	Offer courses in French.
Brno	Incoming<outgoing	25 courses in foreign languages (of which 20 in English). Housing is guaranteed.
Manchester	Incoming>outgoing	They can only send 2 <sup>nd</sup> year students (due to the fact that 2/3 of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year is used for GPA). Expectation is that many of the agreements will stop in a couple of years because of this.
Yeditepe		Turkish and English Law courses. AU summer school in Istanbul. They also organize a 2-week EU law programme with Nice. Erasmus students can also participate in the ll.m. programmes. Many external programmes.
Girona	± balanced	Expressed interest in TS mobility within the network.
Warsaw	Incoming<outgoing	All courses are open to Erasmus students. Accommodation can be a bit problematic. They sometimes have problems receiving e-mail due to spam filter (please resend your emails)
Sofia	Incoming<outgoing	Due to RLN membership English and French taught programmes created. Housing problem.
Ghent	Incoming>outgoing	Strict policy in incoming/outgoing student exchange regarding level. Semesters are not matching. Wide choice of courses, few courses canceled due to number students. Also offers LL.M. Programmes. 50 English taught courses.
Warwick	± balanced	Students can go abroad in 4-year programme and only for a year.
Vilnius	Incoming>outgoing	Have a joint programme with Ghent. The number of outgoing students is lower because students have jobs etc. Exchange students can choose subjects from all departments, not only law.
Copenhagen	Incoming>outgoing	56 courses taught in English, 2 in French. Will do a partner evaluation. Some accommodation problems. Danish students tend to choose exchange destinations outside of Europe.
Reykjavik	± balanced	Courses taught in English (about 30 ects). TS mobility is problematic.

Milano		Accommodation in new building, close to main building. Classes start in October. They have an online Italian language test. CD (handed out) contains all relevant information.
Konstanz		Decrease in number of outgoing students. All relevant information is mentioned in information sheet.
Bergen	± balanced	Exchange numbers are increasing due to new programme, 5-year programme. English courses on Master's level. Course info on website, 10 courses in English. Many courses are 30 ects courses.
Bratislava	Incoming<outgoing	Number of courses in English, also French and German. They have a summer school with Santa Clara university.
Lisbon	Incoming<outgoing	Next year they will introduce Bologna model. All courses are in Portugues. Is interested in Erasmus Mundus cooperation.
Ghent	Incoming>outgoing	In 2007-2008 also 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> year students will be sent abroad. For housing timely application is important. Ghent faces some problems with students who want to exams earlier. They recently had a Quality Assurance procedure; Ghent is no 1-law school in Flanders.
Lund		Reform of system, implementing Bologna. Number of credits per course will change. All courses in English are one Master's level. 2-year Maritime Law Master programme, European Business Law, International Human Rights. Housing problematic. Suggestion law conference: implementation of Bologna within law departments.
Aix-en- Provence	Incoming>outgoing (within RLN)	Exchange within the RLN is improving. All courses are in French. 10 Master programmes, students can choose from courses within Masters. Courses are awarded with 6 ects. There is number of reserved rooms for students.
Rotterdam	Incoming>outgoing	Students can use the ECTS they received during their exchange towards the completion of an ll.m. degree (Commercial Law and International and European Public Law). Timely application for accommodation is necessary.

### 3. Aims for student and teachers mobility

Experiences regarding student mobility were discussed. Paris and Yeditepe have students take language tests. Denmark pointed out that they require 30 ECTS from their students otherwise they cannot go. For Poland this is no less than 20 ECTS. Warwick mentions that it is difficult to determine what ECTS entails, i.e. how many lectures, reading etc. It was concluded that because there are different systems, it might be wise to make bilateral agreements for this. Every university will provide information on the information sheet of how many ECTS a student is expected to take. It is also important to provide students with information about the educational system at the beginning of the year.

Note: According to the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) each country and/or each institution can decide how many ECTS a student should obtain during an exchange. It is important that the ECTS taken abroad should be "recognized". The European Commission does not require a minimum or maximum number of ECTS.

In order to facilitate TS mobility the idea of organizing concentrated courses could be interesting (2/3 weeks) or making a bilateral agreement within a certain course in the curriculum of 2 universities. Most universities agree that lecturers are still somewhat reluctant to go abroad.

Paris has a comparative law programme that involves staff exchange (many seminars). At the university of Ghent it is compulsory for Ass. Professors to go abroad.

It was agreed that we should make more use out of this network regarding TS mobility (joint courses, joint programmes).

#### **5. Network extension or reduction?**

One of the goals set earlier for this network is to have partners in every European (candidate) member state. So far we do not have members in Ireland, Luxemburg, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is decided that Paris will contact their Irish partner about participation in the network (which does not mean that they will have to start cooperation agreements with everybody, however, it might be useful to learn about the Irish system. Maribor will contact their partner in Croatia. Rotterdam will (at a later stage) contact their partners in Estonia and Latvia.