



## **ELFA President's Report 2016-2017**

Dear ELFA members,

During my Presidential year the following events have occurred.

I have had the honour to represent ELFA at two major conferences. In August 2016, me and former ELFA President, Laurence Gormley, attended the Annual Conference of SEALS (the Southeastern Association of Law Schools) in Amelia Island, Florida. We visited number of panels with specialized legal focus as well as those, devoted to the issues of education. Within this conference, there was a meeting with representatives of SEALS where repeated organization of SEALS panel on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ELFA Annual General Meeting and Conference 2017 in Brno and arrangement of ELFA panel on the SEALS Conference 2017 in Florida were agreed. Thus, I may conclude that cooperation commenced years ago by Prof. Haluk Kabalioglu continues successfully and enables a very valuable exchange of knowledge and experience.

Furthermore, I attended the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) that was held in San Francisco, in January 2017. Here, ELFA in conjunction with Leo Martinez from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, organised a panel on "Current Issues Affecting Rule of Law and Legal Education in Europe". Besides me, Prof. Haluk Kabalioglu, Prof. Laurence Gormley, Prof. Jose Maria De Dios Marcer and Prof. Karsten Thorn delivered their presentations here. This panel was rewarded with a very positive reaction of its participants and brought a brisk discussion about presented contributions. We agreed to continue in this form of cooperation with AALS, the next meeting will take place in San Diego, in January 2018.

There has already been the fourth year of ELFA Award, the competition for excellent dissertation thesis focused on the topic of European law. Due to a continuously pleasing number of submitted works as well as their high quality, this year was undoubtedly a success so the Board has decided to continue in ELFA Award for 2017. I would like to give many thanks especially to Prof. Laurence Gormley for organization of the whole competition procedure. The fifth year of ELFA Award has been already announced on the ELFA website.

After the ELFA AGM and Conference in Groningen, the Board met twice in previous year - in Brno (July 2016) and Barcelona (January 2017). These meetings were devoted to current issues of ELFA and mainly to preparations of the ELFA Annual General Meeting and Conference 2017 in Brno. They could be characterized as beneficial, factual and effective.

ELFA as an organization has continued to attract new members and associate members. It is a great pleasure for me to announce that ten law faculties joined ELFA during passed year:

- LATVIA, The University of Latvia
- UNITED KINGDOM, University of Edinburgh
- ITALY, Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa
- MONTENEGRO, University of Montenegro
- ITALY, University of Bergamo
- CROATIA, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
- SPAIN, University of Las Palmas
- MONTENEGRO, University of Montenegro
- UKRAINE, National University “Odessa Academy of Law”
- SPAIN, Universitat de Les Illes Balears

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the Board members who have served with me during this year – and indeed, during the whole period of my membership in the Board. I would also like to thank my Secretary, Katarina Kandova, for her wonderful work that has enabled smooth functioning of ELFA in previous year and as I believe, to the content of all its members. It only remains for me to wish my successor a great year as the President.

Vera Kalvodova  
President

Brno, April 2017