



ESIL Interest Group

“The European and International Rule of Law”

Annual report 2022

In the past 12 months, and following the IG’s initial kick off meeting which took place as a pre-conference event to the 2021 ESIL Annual Conference, the ESIL IG on the European and International Rule of Law commenced working on its agenda by picking up its regular activities and organizing academic events. Moreover, elections for the Coordinating Committee were held in early 2022.

Joint Event with Granada University and the ESIL IG on the EU as a Global Actor

On 17-18 March 2022, our IG held a joint event together with Granada University and the ESIL IG on the EU as a Global Actor on the topic of ‘Enhancing the Rule of Law in the EU’s External Action’. The event’s overall theme was the dialectical tension between the mechanisms protecting the rule of law, being one of the core values and foundational concepts of the EU, and the need for discretion in foreign policy matters in the European Union.

The event started with a brief presentation of Granada University the two sponsoring IGs (our IG was presented by our co-convener Till Patrik Holterhus). The programme encompassed six panels, entitled ‘The Definition of a European Rule Of Law: Between Strategic Autonomy and Sovereignty’, ‘Comparing the Internal and External Notions of Rule Of Law’, ‘Young People’s Perspectives on the Rule of Law’, ‘Sanctions and the Rule of Law’, ‘Rule of Law in the Relations With Neighboring / Candidate Countries’ and ‘Conditionality in EU’s External Action’, with a total of 18 presentations by both established and early career researchers as well as speakers engaged in European civil society organizations. The presentations were selected from responses to a joint call for papers the organizers had issued in late 2021. The event was preceded by an event hosted by Granada University featuring presentations on Spanish on the conference’s overall topic. The full conference programme can be accessed here: <http://acexde2022.dipri.org/index.php/programme>

The event in Granada marked our IG's first co-hosted event with other research institutions. It gave rise to numerous fruitful discussions and offered manifold opportunities for our participating IG members to connect with colleagues with other backgrounds and institutions. The Granada conference delivered on our IG's declared aim to link our IG's main research interests to the interests and activities of other groups both inside and outside ESIL.

We would like to express our gratitude to Luis Hinojosa and his team at Granada University, as well as our colleagues from the ESIL IG on the EU as a Global Actor, for the fruitful cooperation and an inspiring event.

Side Event at the ESIL Annual Conference in Utrecht

On 1 September 2022, the IG held, on the occasion of the the ESIL Annual Conference in Utrecht, a pre-conference workshop on the topic of „Sovereignty and the Rule of Law“. The workshop took place as an on site-only event, a first in the IG's history. As was done at previous events, the conveners decided to opt for few, selected presentations in order to leave enough time for discussions and for networking. Accordingly, three papers were selected from responses to a call for papers issued in spring 2022: 'Universal Jurisdiction and The Second Pillar of the R2P Doctrine' (Lachezar Yanev & Maartje Weerdesteijn), 'The Tension between the Effects of Ius Cogens Norms and Sovereignty: Re-Appraisal of the Position of an Injured State' (Júlia Miklasová) and 'The Contested Authority of Constitutional Courts in Post-Conflict Societies' (Attila Nagy). The presentations were followed by engaged discussions with the audience, in which the issues raised in the three presentations were pursued further. Despite being the only on-site only side event, there was an encouraging turnout, with both familiar and new colleagues attending and engaging in the discussions.

Every IG member was warmly invited to contact the Coordinating Committee at any time with ideas and initiatives for future IG activities, including research topics of interest, formats (e.g. talks, workshops, conferences...), collaborations with other groups/entities or an interest in organizing activities.

2022 Elections for the Coordinating Committee

In early 2022, the IG held elections for its Coordinating Committee. Henner Gött, Till Patrik Holterhus and Velimir Živković stood for re-election and were confirmed as conveners. Our fourth founding co-convenor, Veronika Bílková, decided to not run again and to focus on her other commitments.

On behalf of the IG, the conveners would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Veronika for her work, commitment and engagement as a co-convenor in the IG's first two years.