

Brussels, Monday 13 November 2017

Autumnal greetings to all EULETAns!

Our **EULETA Newsbrief - Autumn 2017** will fill you in on:

- **EULETA 2017 Workshop** - [highlights from Brno 23/09/2017](#)
- **The EULETA Year** (features from the Annual Report) - [2/10/2016](#) → [22/09/2017](#)
- **EULETA 2018 Conference** - [where and when?](#)
- **Upcoming [Legal] English events** - [spring-summer 2018](#)

The EULETA 2017 Workshop:

...took place on Saturday 23/09/2017 in the exquisite setting (see photo) of one of the most vibrant [and picturesque!] language-teaching hubs in Central Europe, the Masaryk University Language Centre in Brno, located in the southern part of the Czech Republic, which is also famous for its fine Moravian wines. The overarching theme of the day's sessions concerned the *Enhancement of Writing Skills in Legal Contexts* and was approached from a variety of angles by both seasoned and new EULETA presenters.



Image: <https://www.cjv.muni.cz/en/> (accessed 7/03/2017)

László Szabó [Budapest] gave participants an overview of his *Practical Guide to English for Law* manual, in which he explores specific aspects of achieving proficiency for non-native writers of Legal English. **Alona Kiriak** [Prague] led an engaging hands-on and interactive session on contract drafting and illustrated a range of good-sense tips to save time and achieve clear structure through some excellent authentic case studies. Two of our wonderful host-organisers, **Barbora Chovancova** and **Alena Hradilova** [Brno], took us through some of the essential techniques for implementing needs-assessment, learning scaffolding and confidence-building exercises for mixed groups of under- and postgraduate law students, paying attention especially to the area of academic skills development and the structuring of academic writing through clear instruction and constructive feedback. **Helen Campbell** [Trier] entertained and informed participants with a charmingly animated account of teaching politeness strategies when drafting legal correspondence. She offered us an insight into the fundamental and potentially game-changing role played by well- or poorly-written legal letters and the challenges for L2 learners in navigating the risks and prizes that are at stake when due attention is paid [or not paid!] to tact,

deference, restraint, gratitude, camaraderie or simply showing respect. **Franz J. Heidinger** [Vienna] shared with us an interdisciplinary approach to teaching Legal English by bringing together linguistics and applied comparative law and thereby proposing a new methodological approach which calls for a new "type" of teacher and trainer, the hybrid lawyer-linguists sought by today's legal market. To round off the day's work, **Masaryk University Faculty of Law's own Professor Filip Křepelka** [Head of the Department of International and European Law] tackled the notion of English dominance in international academic communication, questioning how this Anglicisation of academic life might come at the expense of academic discourse in "national" languages. He concluded, with humour and not without navigating with great dexterity the various challenges and opportunities, that the Anglicisation of Law in academic settings is more problematic than in any other field and, therefore, that Law faculties are natural strongholds of objection to the dominance of English as a global lingua franca... But we EULETans won't be disheartened!



Images (Alona Kiriak - Alena Hradilova/Barbora Chovancova - Helen Campbell - Franz J. Heidinger - Filip Křepelka): https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanLegalEnglishTeachersAssociation.EULETA/?ref=br_rs (accessed 28/10/2017)

The social side of the **EULETA 2017 Workshop** was no less engaging, with our Brno hosts having organised lunch in the bright and airy surroundings of one of the elegant gems of Brno's Modernist architectural heritage, *Restaurant Pavillon* (<http://www.restaurant-pavillon.cz/>). Dinner on Saturday evening was an even heartier affair, enjoyed in one of Brno's more traditional pub-eateries, *Lokál u Cajpla* (<http://lokal-ucaipla.ambi.cz/en/>), where the beer was flowing in veritable torrents.

On the Sunday morning, those hardy EULETans who are always up for a walking tour - and quite an early start AND in drizzly weather - were treated to a guided visit of the Brno city judiciary and Constitutional Court, and had the exclusive pleasure and indeed privilege of being hosted by one of the Court's sixteen judges [and incidentally, one of the Court's only two female judges], JUDr. Kateřina Šimáčková, Ph.D.



Images (left→right): (accessed 28/10/2017)
<https://www.usoud.cz/en/current-justices-and-court-officials/katerina-simackova/>;
<https://www.usoud.cz/en/galerie/>;
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Constitutional Court of The Czech Republic 2010.JPG>

The "Legal Tour" was followed by a walking tour of the highlights of Brno historical centre and city heritage, guided by our MU Language Centre host, Barbora Chovancova, who was assisted on the day by deft illustrations produced and animated by her daughter.



Images: https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanLegalEnglishTeachersAssociation.EULETA/?ref=br_rs (accessed 28/10/2017)

The EULETA Year (features from the Annual Report): 2/10/2016 → 22/09/2017

The EULETA Board met on 4 February 2017 in Bergamo, Italy, for its annual extraordinary meeting. The Board always strives to hold its meetings close to the location of at least one Board member, in this case Mark Brophy, who drove up from Monza, just down the road, picking up several other Board members from Milan airport along the way. Board members flew in from Bialystok, Brussels, Vienna and Zurich. This is the most geographically-diverse Board EULETA has ever seen and reflects well the spread and growth of the association as a whole. Bergamo was deemed to be an excellent meeting location thanks to its well-tuned facilities, overall services, proximity of transport hubs and very reasonable costs.

The 2017 extraordinary meeting of the EULETA Board dealt with EULETA PR matters, planning for the EULETA 2017 workshop, the future for a new Legal English exam under the auspices of EULETA, discussion on the viability of the planned EULETA E-Journal, and the EULETA 2018 conference location.

Achievements in the period covered by the Annual Report:

Visibility:

- The **website** was migrated to a new provider (*Wild Apricot*) early in 2017, which [after a few hiccups] has led to a smoother interface with members and visitors;
- A new **flier** was designed and launched in May and has been distributed to country reps to increase EULETA's visibility in networks/events across Europe;
- The board took the decision to appoint a "**chair**" of **country reps** to optimise horizontal communications between national EULETA hubs and improve actions and presence on the ground across our network. Country reps will henceforth be provided with member lists for their countries so that they can work on their own initiative in relation to local or national events in their region;
- The board also took the decision to set up a **EULETA Members Directory**, available to all members on the website members area, so that they can communicate with each other freely and network online more easily beyond the annual face-to-face events;

- Other PR activities have intensified via **Facebook and LinkedIn**.

Membership:

Membership is now **just shy of 100, its highest ever** - 13 new subscriptions came in after the successful EULETA Winterthur conference and another handful joined after the Bialystok Legal English conference held in June. Members now hail from **23+ countries** and are not confined to the EU or even Europe. In particular, EULETA is spreading its network in **S.E. Europe**, with new members from Croatia and Serbia and growing interest in Macedonia and in Italy. We have also welcomed additional new members from Poland, the Czech Republic and Russia in recent months. The increase represents a similar trend to that of the last report, around **20% growth**.

Budget:

The budget at the last Board meeting stood at €9047.04. Expenses since then have concerned the website migration fees and Treasury-outsourcing fees. The new flier was provided freely (both design and printing/publishing through the generosity and endeavour of EULETA members).

Legal English exam:

Work has continued throughout various nuclei on a future EULETA-supported Legal English exam. The chief issue currently being addressed is the alignment of standards and skills required across our catchment area, where **EULETA demonstrates the potential and expertise among its members to provide an umbrella structure and develop into an accreditation body and mark of quality** for trainers and examiners. Work is being carried out in market research and business development but we also need more committed members to get involved and come on board if we are to **see "EULETA" where we used to see "ILEC"**.

The EULETA E-journal:

As anyone involved in journal production and publications knows, this type of project is slow burning. Our journal project has been accepted for publication by Roma 3 University's esteemed E-Press (<http://romatrepress.uniroma3.it/ita/>) and our editing/drafting guidelines have been formulated based on Roma 3's own editing criteria, translated and adapted [by Board members] to fit our needs. Work remains to be done on acceptance criteria, and a wide net of editors in fields pertinent to the journal needs to be assured. This takes considerable time and some assertive networking. Volunteers with experience in any of the above are welcome!

The journal will be open-access and available (via a link) to all visitors to the EULETA website at no cost, non-members included: this is the policy of open access journals worldwide. The journal will not be an exclusive "academic" journal for publishing research findings only, but more an outlet to publish - on an annual basis - LE practice-based contributions given at EULETA workshops and conferences, along with some external papers accepted by a EULETA editorial panel. We aim to keep the scope as wide as possible to attract EULETA and other target readers.

Some further research needs to be completed regarding the means of validating contributions to the journal in terms of credits according to systems in place for scholarly publications. The board is also working on aspects concerning the journal's place on the market and how it fits among other publications covering similar terrain, both geographically and disciplinarily, e.g. the already existing *International Legal English Journal*, which covers much of S.E. Asia and Australasia. For this reason, the board is intentionally taking its time over

finalising the future title and is also studying potential publishing collaborations with other Teacher Associations across the globe.

EULETA Conference 2018:

(see full feature below)

Personnel:

The new Board found its feet quickly after taking up its mandate on 2 October 2017 at the ZHAW Winterthur conference, thanks in part to the continued presence among us of a seasoned previous Board member and the advice and positive input that has been forthcoming from other former Board members and EULETA members more widely. Thanks go to Stepanka Bilova (and Jim Faulkner) for their diligent auditing work over the most recent budgetary period. Thanks also go to Barbara Born who has been busy behind the scenes supporting the EULETA Treasury and performing numerous other functions as our newly outsourced bookkeeper.

Sad departure:

It was with great sadness and regret that we received news in August this year concerning one of our longest-standing members and former Board officer, Alan Jones, who died suddenly of a stroke at home in Brighton this year. Condolences were sent to his family on behalf of EULETA and all its members. Alan was a staunch EULETAN and anyone who heard him speaking at Board meetings, the AGM or workshops and conferences could be in no doubt as to his commitment to our Association's mission. Alan always had a vision for EULETA and many of us benefited greatly from his knowledge and professional experience. He had a lot more to give and was never short of new ideas and good advice to improve the running of an organisation like ours. He was also good company and will be sorely missed at workshops, conferences and other events.

The EULETA 2018 Conference:

Thursday 27 September - Saturday 29 September 2018

EULETA invites all members to spread the word throughout their networks about the EULETA 2018 Conference!

The **EULETA Conference 2018** will take place over the last weekend in September 2018, starting with an **informal networking event on Thursday evening**; a **day-and-a-half of conference activities** (plenary sessions, networking breaks, parallel workshops/seminars, book and publishers stands, and the **EULETA AGM**); a **networking lunch on Friday and on Saturday**; a **conference dinner on Friday night**; and a **cultural/social event on Saturday afternoon**. Delegates will also be able to avail of the full weekend and fabulous location to enjoy a Sunday of sightseeing.

We received three very viable proposals to host the 2018 EULETA conference, from **Russia: St-Petersburg State University**, **Poland: Jagellonian University, Krakow** and **Croatia: Split University**. It was not easy to decide between the three highly competitive bids but the Board's main concern in negotiations with potential host institutions is always to attain the best all-round experience for members,

including value-for-money, ensure good accessibility, and guarantee the added value of what venues have to offer in terms of facilities, culture and scenery.

One venue came out on top for all these features and the **EULETA Conference 2018** will therefore be co-organised by the **Faculty of Law, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek** and the **Faculty of Law, University of Split, both Croatia**.



The venue:

The Faculty of Law, University of Split, Croatia

Dates for your diaries: the conference will run

- from Thursday 27 September 2018
- to Saturday 29 September 2018



Images: <http://www.isausm.com/> (accessed 12/11/2017)

After the **meet & greet event on Thursday evening**, the **conference itself will take place all day Friday and on Saturday throughout the morning**, concluding at lunchtime. Participants will then be treated to **a tour of the island of Trogir and its historical sites** as guests of the Faculty of Law, University of Split.



Image: <https://www.dreamstime.com/royalty-free-stock-photography-map-croatia-split-image10051727> (accessed 12/11/2017)

See www.euleta.org for updates and registration details!

Upcoming [Legal] English events - spring-summer 2018

-*Diachronic dimensions in specialised varieties of English: implications in communications, didactics and translation studies*, 39th International GERAS Conference, University of Mons, **Belgium**, **15-17 March 2018**
(<https://www.geras.fr/index.php/colloques/colloque-2018/2-uncategorised/245-cfp-39th-international-geras-conference>)

-*Scholarly Pathways: Knowledge Transfer and Knowledge Exchange in Academia*, International conference hosted by CERLIS (Centro di Ricerca sui Linguaggi Specialistici), University of Bergamo, **Italy**, **21-23 June 2018**
(<http://dinamico.unibg.it/cerlis/page.aspx?p=286>)

-*Legal Translation, Court Interpreting and Comparative Legilinguistics*, International conference, Institute of Linguistics, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, **Poland**, **13-15 July 2018**
(http://lingualegis.amu.edu.pl/?page_id=68&lang=en)

Get involved more widely with EULETA - submit your ideas to the EULETA Board!

Ongoing working groups in the following areas:

- The future **EULETA Legal English exam** (post-ILEC)
- Finalising the design of a **EULETA e-journal**
- Widening the concept of **EULETA Study trips/Legal Tours**
- Developing **EULETA Teacher-training materials**
- Your idea...

contact@euleta.org

Looking forward to seeing you at Legal English events throughout the coming year and especially at *the event for Legal English Teachers in 2018: the **EULETA 2018 Conference 27-29 September in Split, Croatia!***

With best wishes on behalf of **EULETA**,



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