

European Network for Clinical Legal Education Mission Statement
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Considered

- (1) that Clinical Legal Education (hereinafter “CLE”) already has a successful story to tell in some European countries, and there is sustained interest throughout Europe in promoting a European clinical movement;
- (2) that CLE has the potential to contribute to the modernisation of legal education and to increase the quality of law teaching;
- (3) that CLE can be seen as a tool to promote social justice in Europe by emphasising the sensitisation of students as future professionals to the problems of social justice and to foster their sense of social responsibility;
- (4) that CLE thus also helps to promote, to emphasise and to reinvigorate the social dimension of law;
- (5) that participants at the first and second gathering of persons interested in creating a European Network for Clinical Legal Education, organised by the International University College of Turin in June 2012 in Turin (Italy) and by the Foundation of Polish Legal Clinics in Swinoujscie (Poland) in September 2012, expressed their will and engagement to establish such a network as a legal association in Europe;
- (6) that a ENCLE website and a database with useful information on CLE should be established in order to connect people working in the field of clinical legal education through this website and through an email list
- (7) that a European-wide ENCLE conference should be organised in 2013 as a first gathering of persons involved and interested in CLE in Europe, and
- (8) that all persons and institutions involved and/or interested in CLE in Europe are expressly invited to join this network,

the participants these meetings agreed on the following mission statement aiming at setting the basis for the creation of a European-wide network for CLE:

1. Name

The name of the association is **European Network for Clinical Legal Education**, hereinafter referred to as **ENCLE**.

2. Purpose and Goals

2.1 The general purpose of the ENCLE should be to promote justice and to increase the quality of law teaching through CLE by bringing together persons from different European countries, who exchange perspectives and work collaboratively from a variety of legal, educational and organisational settings.

2.2 “Clinical legal education“ is a law teaching method based on experiential learning, which develops not only knowledge, but also skills and values and at the same time promotes social justice. As a broad term, it describes the variety of formal, non-formal and informal educational programs and projects, which use practical-oriented, student-centred, problem-based interactive learning methodology, emphasise practical work of students on real cases and social issues under the supervision of academics and professionals. These educational activities aim to develop professional attitudes and foster students’ practical skills to encourage a modern understanding of the role that socially oriented professionals have in promoting the rule of law, providing access to justice and peaceful conflict resolution, and solving social problems.

2.3 The ENCLE pursues in particular, among others, the following specific objectives:

- (1) To pursue and promote social justice and diversity as core values of the legal profession.
- (2) To increase the quality of legal education.

- (3) To foster awareness on fundamental rights (as expressed, for instance, in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, and any other relevant instruments) and the mechanisms to enforce them.
- (4) To promote the understanding of how domestic law and European law interact in practice.

2.4 In order to pursue its objectives, the ENCLE undertakes several actions, including but not limited to:

- (1) Promoting, supporting and facilitating the creation of CLE programs across Europe, with a special emphasis to life client clinics.
- (2) Facilitating transnational information sharing and collaboration on CLE, by providing in particular tools for sharing information on teaching methods, best practices and materials among teachers, such as a website and databases.
- (3) Fostering research on CLE and creating platforms for the sharing and exchange of relevant research products.
- (4) Supporting and implementing advocacy projects at regional, national or European level in order to create greater awareness in Europe about the advantages of CLE.
- (5) Convening conferences, workshops and training sessions.
- (6) Providing a platform for, and facilitating, transnational projects on innovative methods of legal education and the sensitisation to social justice through legal education.
- (7) Training trainers in order to promote the creation of a pool of excellent clinical trainers in Europe.
- (8) Facilitating transnational study visits and exchange programs.
- (9) Promoting collaboration between clinical legal education programs and legal professionals. This includes, among others, promoting initiatives that might improve community understanding of the benefits of CLE, and establishing connections with professionals and legal professional associations in Europe.

3. Membership

3.1 The ENCLE is open to any person involved with CLE in Europe, such as, for instance, teachers, educational administrators, lawyers, judicial officials, law officers, paralegals, legal workers, or members of NGOs.

3.2 The ENCLE is in addition open to institutional members, such as, for instance, universities, law schools, clinical programs, national clinical associations/foundations/networks, which are involved in CLE.

3.3 The ENCLE creates furthermore the possibility for professional bodies, foundations, institutes, networks or any other body interested in the work of ENCLE to join the association as supporting member.

21 September 2012