

Report from the Founding Meeting of an Academic Network on Family Law in Europe (FL-EUR)

On the 1st and 2nd February 2019 the Family Law in Europe: An Academic Network (FL-EUR) was established by experts from 28 European jurisdictions at a founding meeting held in Amsterdam.

The purpose of the FL-EUR is close academic cooperation amongst the experts and between the experts and other stakeholders in the field of family and law, aimed at

- accumulation and dissemination of knowledge of both family law in the books and in action,
- promotion of comparative and multidisciplinary research and education in the field of family and law,
- learning from one another's experiences and finally,
- providing up-to-date comparative data for European, supranational and national bodies.

The FL-EUR activities will in general be aimed at substantive family law, child law, the law of persons and related subjects of inheritance law, but will not include Private International Law. The FL-EUR has committed itself to applying a problem-solving, multidisciplinary approach, entailing a combination of the functional comparative law method and multidisciplinary methods. Legal solutions will be described and analysed in their political and socio-economic context. The experts will also describe the underlying policy considerations and political and academic debates behind the legal solutions. If available, existing empirical evaluations of relevant legislation will be included in the work, providing evidence of which national legal solutions work and which do not.

The FL-EUR intends to disseminate the results of its work through organising conferences and seminars, open-access publication of national reports and articles and published books.

During the founding meeting the members of the FL-EUR chose Empowerment and Protection of Vulnerable Adults as its first working field. A coordinating group, appointed by the FL-EUR members, will draft a questionnaire in close cooperation with all its members. Country reports for all jurisdictions will then be produced by the experts and will be published on the FL-EUR's website which was created recently.¹ On the basis of these reports the common core, best practices and pitfalls will be uncovered in order to put together a range of possible solutions that could be used by national Governments, European and International organisations and professionals and their associations.

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¹ For more see <https://fl-eur.eu/> (cit. 11.7.2019).

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