

*Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices*

## **REPORT on the Kick-off Conference**

### **“SKILLS TRANSFERS IN ACADEMIA: A RENEWED STRATEGY ENHANCING LEGAL CLINICS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”**

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Senate Hall, Romanian-American University  
1B Expoziției Blvd., Sector 1, Bucharest

The present international conference launched the European Erasmus+ project **“Skills transfers in academia: A renewed strategy enhancing legal clinics in the European Union (STARS)”**, which establishes a consortium of Strategic Partners supporting innovation in legal education.

The event took place on the 24th of November 2017 at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest. It was organised by the Center for Human Rights and Migration from the Romanian American University, together with the University of Luxembourg, Roma Tre University, Palacký University in Olomouc and University of Brescia.

The STARS project intends to renew teaching strategies within law schools by developing innovative outputs in the field of clinical legal education and formalizing existing teaching methods, to engage into intensive dissemination and exploitation activities of clinical legal education and more specifically of innovative practices in legal teaching through Europe. Clinical legal education driven through legal clinics is a legal teaching method based on experiential learning, which fosters the growth of knowledge, personal skills and values as well as promoting social justice at the same time. As a broad term, it encompasses varieties of formal, non-formal and informal educational programs and projects, which use practical-oriented, student-centered problem and community-based interactive learning methods, including, but not limited to, the practical work of students on real cases and social issues supervised by academics and professionals. These educational activities aim to develop

professional attitudes and foster the growth of the practical skills of students about the modern understanding of the role of the socially oriented professionals in promoting the rule of law, providing access to justice and peaceful conflict resolutions, and solving social and community problems.

The success of the present kick-off conference was generated by its organizing structure: a scientific committee and an organizing committee. The Scientific Committee was made of:

1. Silvia TĂBUȘCĂ, Erasmus+ STARS National Coordinator for Romania, School of Law, Romanian-American University, Romania
2. Elise POILLOT, Erasmus+ STARS Project Coordinator, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
3. Cristina AMATO, Erasmus+ STARS National Coordinator for Italy, University of Brescia, Italy
4. Veronika TOMOSZKOVA, Erasmus+ STARS National Coordinator for Czech Republic, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic
5. Camelia TOADER, Judge at the European Court of Justice, Luxembourg
6. Gabriele LENZINI, Professor, Security and Trust Interdisciplinary Center, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
7. Gilles LHUILIER, Professor, École Normale Supérieure de Rennes, France
8. Alina GENTIMIR, Lecturer, University Al. I. Cuza, Iasi, Romania
9. Elaine HALL, Professor of Legal Education Research, Northumbria Law School, UK
10. Fabrice HÉNARD, International consultant, President of Learning Avenue, France
11. Filip CZERNICKI, President of the Polish Legal Clinics Foundation, Poland
12. Ruth MESTRE, Professor & Board Member of the European Network for Clinical Legal Education, University of Valencia, Spain
13. Mariana BERBEC, President of Global Alliance for Justice Education, Hungary
14. Maria Cecilia PAGLIETTI, Erasmus+ STARS National Coordinator for Italy, Roma Tre Law Department, Italy
15. Mihai SEBEA, Vice-President, Romanian-American University, Romania

The Organizing Committee was made of:

1. Alexandru TABUSCA, Professor, IT&C Director, Romanian-American University, Romania
2. Nicolas FEVRIER, Erasmus+ STARS Researcher, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
3. Laura BUGATTI, Erasmus+ STARS Researcher, University of Brescia, Italy
4. Antonietta SPECOGNA, Erasmus+ STARS Researcher, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
5. Andra EFTIMIE, School of Law, Romanian-American University, Romania
6. Andreea DOBRESU, School of Law, Romanian-American University, Romania

The kick-off conference was a successful activity within the STARS Project. There were 87 applications received for attendance in the conference among which 61 participated: 30 international and 31 Romanians:

- 20 local participants (RO, excluding partners) and 11 local participants from RAU (NOT members of the project team);
- 25 international participants (excluding partners) and 5 international participants (members of the project team).

The profile of the participants was as follows:

- 28 representatives of universities: 11 Romanians and 17 foreign participants;
- 13 representatives of NGOs working on human rights and education, 8 representatives from Romanian and 5 from abroad, among which Global Alliance for Justice Education and Polish Legal Clinics Foundation;
- 5 representatives of GDSACP (the General Direction of Social Affairs and Child Protection) from all over the Romania;
- 5 representatives the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Moldova;
- 1 judge from CJEU (Court of Justice of the European Union) from Luxembourg;
- 1 lawyers and 4 jurists interested in human rights and legal education;
- 1 representative of Internal Affairs Attaché, Spanish Police and
- 1 representative of national police authority.