

Claas Friedrich Germelmann (ed.)

Innovative Teaching in European Legal Education

International Conference within the Framework
of the 2019 ELPIS Network Meeting



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Preface

Modernising legal education is a daunting task. Finding a common ground for legal education in Europe, let alone in an international perspective, is even more difficult. Nevertheless, the challenges of the modern world, the complexity and interconnectivity that globalisation is bringing about for the law and the legal professions, and the technological progress in the field of digitalisation require changes in the traditional patterns of domestic legal education. University education as a whole is facing challenges, but it is also experiencing new opportunities as not only the current health crisis and the forced change to a variety of online tools replacing and complementing traditional lectures and classroom work have shown. More generally, the requirements of legal professions and the needs of law students are changing, and legal education has to address these changes.

Hence, in recent years, modernising legal education has become an endeavour of growing interest in the academic world. Both the international point of view and the digitalisation issue are core topics in the discourse. It was therefore obvious to bring the question of innovative teaching in law up within the framework of the ELPIS network, which has been assembling a significant (and growing) number of scholars from European and non-European law faculties since its founding by professor *Hilmar Fenge* of Hanover university in the 1980s. Throughout its history, the network's focus has always been on an active exchange on questions of legal education. The collective volume takes up this topic and assembles several essays of scholars of the ELPIS network on different topics of modern legal education. The contributions are based on the talks and discussions as well as on the ideas developed at the annual conference of 2019. It took place in Hanover in December, at a time when no one would have thought that the global health crisis that broke loose only a few weeks after would have a catalytic effect on the changes and challenges in legal education throughout the world.

The contributions take different points of view on the topic of modern legal education, combining comparative, European and global perspectives. They focus on the value of international exchange, on questions of law curricula and on employability requirements in a globalised world, on students' needs and on modern teaching methods, and especially on various instruments of digitalised learning, teaching and publishing. While by

Preface

no means intending to deliver a final concept for modern legal education, the book wishes to show the diversity of the fields as well as the variety of challenges that have to be addressed. It will hopefully be offering some guidance in this area and contribute to the continuing debate which not only the health crisis has proven to be an important and timely one.

I would like to thank our publishers, NOMOS and Hart Publishing, and in particular professor *Johannes Rux*, for the support and assistance in the publishing process. I furthermore wish to thank Dr *Dimitrios Parashu* for his help in organising the conference as well as for his assistance with the work for this volume. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the participants of the Hanover conference where many of the ideas have been discussed and tested. The continuing exchange within the network has proven to be particularly fruitful in times when online teaching has become the new normal.

Hanover, January 2021

Claas Friedrich Germelmann

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