

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ
RUSSIAN EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES CENTRE

REEES



Annual Report 2011 / 2012
and Mid-Term Development Plan

REEES

Russian East European & Eurasian Studies Centre
University of Graz

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Autumn 2012 marks the second year of REEES' activities. First created as a research platform under Dean Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Willibald Posch of the Law Faculty of the University of Graz, it first served as a forum of exchange between members of the Law Faculty. By the decision of the Rectorate of the University of Graz of 3 November 2011 it was transformed into a Research Centre mandated to reach out to other faculties of the University of Graz and the relevant international and non-government organisations.

This first annual report is part of the preparations for the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Board of REEES (University of Graz/Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria, 5 November 2012). Advisory Board members were carefully selected and appointed by the Rector of the University of Graz.

Now continuing under Dean Prof. Dr. Josef Marko as a central project in the Development Plan of the Law Faculty for the period 2013 – 2018, REEES develops programme activities with relevant scholar and other institutions in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. It is hoped that its training and research agenda will prove relevant for the challenges faced by the European Union in the region.

I would like to take this occasion to thank the former Dean Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Willibald Posch as well as the current Dean Prof. Dr. Josef Marko for their unswerving support, thank all past and present REEES staff members for their inspiring contributions to REEES' work, and finally thank all the "friends of REEES" around the world, in particular in the Russian Federation, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, for having worked on REEES' various projects.

Graz / Vienna, November 2012

Thomas Kruessmann, Director

1. REEES' OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Russian East European & Eurasian Studies Centre (REEES) at the Law Faculty of the University of Graz complements the long-standing regional focus of the University of Graz towards South-Eastern Europe. It was created to adopt a regional approach and realize projects with regard to the Russian Federation, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia (the “target areas”).

Its objective is to act as a catalyst in defining an international and intercultural research agenda with a view to fostering linkages between academic research and policy-oriented practical interventions. Its initial task was to optimise existing potentials for research programmes and project expertise within the Law Faculty of the University of Graz related to the target areas, to be followed by comprehensive inter-disciplinary research programmes both within the University of Graz and with academic partners, government and non-government organisations as well as other stakeholders in the target areas.

The vision of REEES is to transcend the boundaries of legal scholarship and to rise to the complexity of social and cultural relations that form the background against which law operates. It, therefore, adopts a holistic approach to law, in particular with regard to the intercultural dimensions of collaborative work with the target areas.

REEES initializes, coordinates and supports regional research programmes and projects. It acts as an interface for country-specific as well as professional expertise regarding law in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. In addition, REEES acquires application-oriented contract research and harmonizes it with existing resources of the related institutes and institutions at the University of Graz.

REEES manages its work at an advanced scientific level in research, education and training. The activities are carried out in the form of programmes and projects. REEES promotes the transfer of knowledge by disseminating its research results to intergovernmental and governmental institutions or agencies that are responsible for implementing co-operation strategies domestically and / or internationally.

As for the geographical target areas of REEES, the specific country-approach varies, but apart from bilateral issues as defined from the perspective of the Republic of Austria, regional approaches in line with the relevant strategies of the European Union (EU) are given preference. The definition of target areas does not preclude that activities cover neighbouring countries and the relevant regions in a wider context as well.

In addition to its regional focus, REEES seeks to strengthen its ties with the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Anti Corruption Academy (IACA).

2. REEES' ORGANISATION AND FINANCING

REEES is a Centre under § 15 of the organisation plan of the University of Graz. It is chaired by a Director. According to its founding declaration, its staff includes programme officers and secretarial support. Depending on external funding there are pre-doc as well as post-doc researchers working on individual projects.

Currently, the core staff of REEES is as follows:

Director	Mr. Thomas Kruessmann, Prof. Dr., LL.M. (King's College)
Junior Researcher (full time)	Mr. Benedikt Harzl, Mag. iur.
Junior Researcher (part time)	Ms. Elizaveta Samoilova, Mag. ^a iur.
Secretary	not funded
Programme Officers	none

REEES currently employs 2 student assistants during the semesters:

Ms. Svetlana Kim
Ms. Alsu Garaeva

Previously, Ms. Asel Garaeva and Ms. Meerim Aidarova worked as student assistants. Ms. Garaeva is now on maternity leave, Ms. Aidarova works on a contract basis for specific projects.

In addition, the following interns helped to realize projects: Mr. Dieter Wohlmuth, Mr. Sebastian Stodulka, Ms. Viktoria Matlakhova, Ms. Martina Spreitzhofer and Mr. Bojan Slijepečević.

The Advisory Board of REEES serves as link with the United Nations and various other international and non-governmental organisations. The Chairman *ad interim* was appointed by the Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Graz. His task was to provide support in the convening of the first meeting of the Advisory Board. Currently, all members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Rector of the University of Graz for a period of five years. For the term beginning on 5 November 2012 the composition of the Board is as follows:

- Mr. Slawomir Redo (Dr hab., Poland), f. UN Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Expert (chairperson *ad interim*);
- Mr. Michael Platzter (Ph.D., Cornell), USA, Liaison Officer of the Academic Council on the United Nations System and Chair Vienna NGO Alliance for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
- Mr. Walter Kemp (Ph.D., LSE), Canada, Director for Europe and Central Asia, International Peace Institute;
- Mr. Dejan Keserović (LL.M, Oxford), Serbia, IOM Coordinator for Central Asia - Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In addition, Mr. Alexandre Schmidt (UNODC Regional Representative for West and Central Africa) and Mr. Jacek Cukrowski (Chief, UNIDO Capacity-Development Institute and Regional Analysis Unit) join the Advisory Board with an observer status.

The budgetary responsibility for REEES lies with the University of Graz. It provides funding for the REEES core staff and the hiring of student assistants. Additional funding is provided by the University of Graz through project-related tenders (e.g. start-up funding for applications for EU project applications). Otherwise, funding depends on external sources. In this regard, REEES obtained project funding from the Styrian government (Austria), Eurasia-Pacific UNI-Net, the Federal Chancellery (Austria), Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Germany) and others.

3. REEES' ACTIVITIES IN 2011 / 2012 AND ITS MID-TERM WORK PROGRAMME

3.1. General comments regarding REEES' programmes and activities

REEES' programmes and activities can basically be divided between those which are pro-actively established by the REEES itself and those which respond to calls either for applications / funding opportunities or internally from Faculty members who like to engage in collaborative research.

There are currently three programmes which were chosen in a pro-active manner and for which subsequently financing needs to be found:

-  – to enhance the rule of law in the target region, most centrally by developing a curriculum for rule of law education and implementing advanced teaching solutions via e-learning;
-  – to define the critical lessons of South Eastern Europe's integration experience with the EU and transferring this experience to the integration / association process of the EU with Moldova and the countries of the Southern Caucasus;
-  – to understand socio-economic transformation processes in Central Asia through analysis of the role of women.

In addition, two large projects applications for the 7th EU Framework Programme are currently under way:

- CALPEX –a Marie Curie Initial Training Network to create advanced training opportunities for a new generation of Central Asia Legal and Political Experts;
- SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY IN THE CAUCASUS – the current call in the 7th EU Framework Programme.

Finally, REEES staff is contributing to projects managed by other Faculty members, e.g. Prof. DDr. Bernd Wieser's project to write a Commentary on the current Constitution of the Russian Federation.

A more detailed description of these and other REEES programmes and projects is provided below (3.3).

An important aspect of REEES' activities is the fostering of formal co-operation relations with Universities in the target region. This is done, on the one hand, by concluding bilateral memoranda of understanding on the faculty level. To this end, REEES facilitated the conclusion of agreements between the law faculties of the University of Graz and Tbilisi State University, Georgia (2010) and Yerevan State University, Armenia (2011). Further agreements are now in preparation with Batumi State University (Georgia) and Qafqaz University (Azerbaijan).

On the other hand, the University of Graz, with the support of REEES, became member of two large Erasmus-Mundus consortia and will facilitate student and academic staff mobility with the respective target universities:

- The "Alrakis" consortium is led by Georg-August University of Göttingen (Germany), its beneficiary countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- The "Euro-Asian Cooperation for Excellence and Advancement" consortium led by the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) includes 8 European universities - among them the University of Graz - and 11 Central Asian universities

3.2. Projects completed in 2011

Since REEES took up its operations only in September 2010, there were no projects completed in 2011.

3.3. Ongoing projects in 2012



3.3.1. ELEVATE

ELEVATE stands for E-Learning Variations for Transition Economies. Its goal is to use e-learning tools to assist in solving transitional justice issues in Central Asia, particularly with a view to connecting rule of law and sustainable development.

The EU Central Asia Strategy adopted in 2007 emphasizes the growing importance of Central Asia as a partner region for the EU. The Strategy combines various strands, among them a “EU rule of law initiative” and a “European education initiative”. So far there have been no attempts to merge the two strands of the Strategy. The rule of law initiative is directed to law enforcement professionals, the education initiative to institutions of higher learning, among others. ELEVATE aims at combining these two strands, viewing legal education in institutions of higher learning as “rule of law education”.

ELEVATE exemplifies the long-term commitment of the University of Graz through REEES to contribute to rule of law education in Central Asia. Its goals are twofold:

On the one hand, it is the creation of an EU Moot Court Competition on the rule of law for Central Asia, using e-learning tools to bring in as many institutions in the field of legal education as possible. The University of Graz, through its Institute of International Law and International Relations (Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benedek) and World University Services Austria (WUS Austria) has more than ten years of experience in the organisation of regional moot court competitions. Ultimately, the goal is to have an EU Moot Court Competition in all five Central Asian republics.

The second-goal of ELEVATE is the implementation of pilot projects for e-learning in rule of law with a number of TEMPUS partners. Typically, rule of law contents will be introduced both in criminal law / criminal procedure as well as in international law classes. Beyond substantive innovation, ELEVATE will provide models for building competencies in the law faculties’ staff and students, so that the benefits of e-learning can be put to use also for other disciplines within the faculty.

The first major event in the framework of ELEVATE was the “International Conference on Rule of Law Education in Central Asia”, which took place on 6 May 2011. This conference did not only provide opportunities for exchanging of good practices, it has also paved the way for concrete project co-operation in Central Asia. The first session was held in plenary and

started with the keynote speeches of the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, H.E. Ambassador Pierre Morel, and Prof. Thomas Kruessmann, followed by responses and statements of the diplomatic representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan. In the afternoon, issues of cooperation in the "rule of law" and e-learning area were discussed as well as national and international "good practice" examples introduced. These presentations by Mrs. Brunnhofer, Mr. Kutanov, Mr. Karimipour and Mr Elbers were followed by a discussion and the opening of the photo exhibition „From the Heart of Asia“ by Mr. Slawomir Redo.



In order to give a better understanding of how the end result of the ELEVATE project may look like, REEES produced a video which premiered at the conference in May, actors include the then Dean of the Law Faculty o.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. iur. hc. Willibald Posch. The video is available at Youtube at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTrDu0LvKQw

As a second step, REEES in co-operation with the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) held a Follow-up meeting to the "International Conference on Rule of Law Education for Central Asia" at the Vienna International Centre on 22 June 2011. Participants discussed the outcomes of the above Conference as well as the next steps for the introduction of an EU Rule of Law Moot Court in Central Asia.

In May 2012, members of REEES participated in a fact finding mission to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The aim of the mission, which was financed by Eurasia Pacific Uni Net, was the investigation and evaluation of the framework conditions at the universities and administration academies in the respective countries for the implementation of the ELEVATE programme. The outcomes were summarised in a report¹.

One particularly promising line of future activities is the introduction of narrowly profiled master programmes in co-operation with the Public Administration Academy of Kyrgyzstan. The newly appointed Rector of this Academy, Dr. Chingiz Shamshiyev, explained that he sees a particular need in introducing approximately 15 master programmes which should be outsourced to (Western) universities and which should be realized using e-learning. REEES proposed a master's programme "Rule of Law and Good Governance" which could be realized with EU TEMPUS funding. Currently the problem is that the TEMPUS programme does

¹ You can find the report on the REEES website: <http://www.uni-graz.at/reees/>.

not recognize rule of law as a national priority for Kyrgyzstan; rule of law projects can only be proposed as part of a regional project involving at least three Central Asian republics. During the study trip REEES had an analogous discussion with the head of the international department of the Public Administration Academy of Kazakhstan. However, it became clear that the level of curriculum development in Kazakhstan is much further advanced; in particular there was no need for introducing new master programmes.

Outcomes of ELEVATE so far:

- 1) Promotional video produced.
- 2) Curriculum for a 40 hrs rule of law class developed and translated to Russian.
- 3) Didactic concept developed using VITERO virtual conferencing software.
- 4) A showcase lecture on the rule of law principle “*nullum crimen, nulla poena sine lege scripta*” recorded on video to be shown within a VITERO virtual conference session; it features the police torture case of *Gaefgen v. Germany* and discusses the pros and cons of creating unwritten justification grounds to exclude criminal liability.

3.3.2. MOVE>>SEE-SC



MOVE>>SEE-SC aims at defining the critical lessons of South Eastern Europe's integration experience with the EU and transferring this experience to the integration / association process of the EU with Moldova and the countries of the Southern Caucasus. Participants of this project are junior researchers from the region, mostly at the stage of defending their Master thesis for the “LL.M. Master in South East European Law & European Integration” at the University of Graz.

The agenda of the research project MOVE>>SEE-SC is informed by two interrelated processes. On the one hand, since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty the European Union has faced changes to its competential as well as institutional structure concerning the relations to its Eastern neighbours. These changes call for a closer examination, but also provide the opportunity to re-visit established policies (Accession Policy, European Neighbourhood

Policy and / or Eastern Partnership). On the other hand, Moldova and the countries of the Southern Caucasus decided, albeit to a different extent, to move forward in their policies regarding EU integration.

This legal and political starting point suggests the need to examine the given template of problems and solutions in the light of other regional EU integration experience, most notably the EU's pre-accession strategy regarding South Eastern Europe.

The research questions raised within this project will be formulated primarily from a normative point of view. However, they will also be imbedded in a social science empirical approach. Legal analysis thus also takes into account the available statistical materials to reflect on the magnitude of the problems discussed. In addition, the legal analyses will be preceded by a chapter on history and political science which will give readers an introduction to the current situation in Moldova and the Southern Caucasus. Approaches from the neighbouring disciplines of international relations and economic policy are also considered.

The research project will adopt a strong presence on the World Wide Web, initially using the REEES website to publish interim results. Subsequently, a full-fledged online publication will be realized. In addition, the research will lead to a classical publication in the series "Grazer Beiträge zum Recht der Länder Südosteuropas und der Europäischen Integration" (*Graz Contributions to the Law of the Countries of South Eastern Europe and European Integration*), to be published with LIT Publishers.

The structure of the research project and the final publication will be based on five chapters:

(1) Introduction

(2) Overview from a historical-political science perspective ("Moldova and the Southern Caucasus as a challenge for the European neighbourhood policy of the EU")

(3) Analysis of the legal framework of EU integration for Moldova and the countries of the Southern Caucasus, divided into the following aspects:

1. Effects of the new powers available for the European Neighbourhood Policy;
2. Coordination of EU policies with integration strategies regarding Russia and Turkey;
3. Possible approaches to regional strategies (in particular as a parallel to the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe);

4. Possible approaches to sub-regional strategies (in particular as a parallel to the regional programmes established in South Eastern Europe);

(4) Examination of particularly visible legal questions (“signature issues”) from the integration of South Eastern Europe relating to Moldova and the countries of the Southern Caucasus;

(5) Summary.

MOVE>>SEE-SC started in summer 2011 when the researchers came to Graz for individual research. In September 2011, a mid-term conference to evaluate the state of research took place at the University of Graz. Supported by the Styrian government, this conference aimed at refining the methodological approaches of the participating scholars with a view to drafting a catalogue of policy questions.

Immediately after this conference, a study trip to Brussels took place. During meetings with various EU policy makers at Commission and Parliament level as well as ambassadors of SC countries to the EU, the project participants not only generated additional knowledge for their individual research topics, but also had the opportunity to challenge members of the European Parliament and public servants of the European Commission with their views in terms of which way of European assistance is needed for their countries.

In March 2012, project participants presented their research findings at an international conference which was organised through REEES in cooperation with the EU Delegation to Georgia and the Institute for European Studies of Tbilisi State University. Keynote speaker was the Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia, H.E. Ambassador Philip Dimitrov.

Since February 2012, final work on the researchers’ contributions by the editorial team is being conducted.² The final publication is expected in spring 2013.

As a prolongation of the MOVE>>SEE-SC agenda, REEES contributed to the Government of Styria’s Black Sea Conference held on 9 November 2012. The main goals of this conference were:

- providing background information and contacts concerning the Black Sea region;
- establishing a regional forum for exchange;

² The finalized papers as well as the abstracts of all participants can be downloaded at http://www.uni-graz.at/rdekacww/rdekacww_projekte/rdekacww_move/content.rdekacww-movedownload.

- contributing to the Eastern Partnership in the frame of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership programme (ENP);
- strengthening the regional dimension of already existing federal external relations;
- focussing on already existing Styrian contacts to the black sea region;
- enabling the implementation of concrete projects with the Black Sea region.

Prof. Thomas Kruessmann contributed a talk on the topic “University Co-operation as a Catalyst for Economic Development - Leveling the Playing Field for Foreign Investors”.³

Outcomes of MOVE>>SEE-SC so far:

- 1) Mid-term conference at the University of Graz conducted.
- 2) Study trip to Brussels performed.
- 3) Dissemination event in Tbilisi held.
- 4) Approximately half of the papers finalized.
- 5) Government of Styria supported in organising a Black Sea Conference in November 2012.

3.3.3. EMPOWER



EMPOWER aims at creating a forum of exchange between young scholars and practitioners from NGOs and international organizations to study the socio-economic developments in Central Asia from the point of view of women’s rights. While the Soviet Union is seen by many as a liberating force in the lives of women, current developments point towards a more contradictory situation. On the one hand, women maintain the fabric of Central Asian societies; on the other hand they come under increasing pressure. Some changes are connected

³ The complete programme can be downloaded at <http://www.europa.steiermark.at/cms/beitrag/11674469/74950780/>.

to the advance of Islamism, others are connected to the decrease in women's status in society and the decline in the socio-economic level in general.

On the international level, the most recent step towards refocusing on the dimension of gender relations was the creation by the UN General Assembly (resolution 64/289 of 21 July 2010) of "UN Women" - the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. For Central Asia, UN Women is building on the reporting process enacted by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979). All Central Asian countries ratified this convention and undertake to submit regular reports which come under international scrutiny. Another advocate of women's rights in the countries of Central Asia is the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. OSCE Centres promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, facilitate contacts and exchanges of information, and provide assistance to the Governments of Central Asia. So while a political process is well established in all Central Asian countries and habitually observed, very often the actual implementation on the ground is lacking.

The difficulty of establishing even minimum standards in the protection of women becomes clear against the demographical and economic background of Central Asia. Out of the 61, 2 million population more than half are women. A large amount of people live in villages, and there is an increasing de-urbanisation especially in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Life in rural areas is much more difficult for women than for men: not only is it more demanding to find work in rural areas, traditional gender roles are also more easily maintained and there is less access for women to help when they become victims of violence. Increased economic hardship, caused by the worldwide financial crisis, leads to a strong reliance on migration and remittances. The main flow of migration from Central Asia is to Russia, 85% of migrants come from Tajikistan, 60% from Kyrgyzstan and 70% of migrants from Uzbekistan. While migrant workers are not by definition male, the larger majority of young male, esp. in order to prove their capacity as breadwinners, often undertake the long journey to Russia to work in difficult and most often illegal conditions at construction sites, etc.

Migration takes an additional toll on the fate of women left behind. The number of divorces in Central Asia is growing every year, especially in families where one spouse is in migration. The frequency of such phenomena as abandoned wives of migrant workers destroys national values. In addition, women feel pressure from their male compatriots who stayed behind with them. Taking advantage of the social vulnerability of women men often expose them to sexual violence, which leads to the serious problem of the abandoned children of Central Asia. A third of women are regularly subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence by their husbands. Women cannot protect themselves because they don't know their rights. The

largest problem is underreporting and lack of resort to police and access to justice.

The first event in the framework of EMPOWER was an international conference on the topic “Women in Modern Central Asia”, held on 6 and 7 November 2012. Renowned keynote speakers, such as the former President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mme Rosa Otunbayeva, and the new EU Special Representative on Central Asia, Dr. Patricia Flor, shared their experience and brought encouragement to a new generation of scholars who work on gender issues and their effect on the socio-economic development of Central Asia. The conference will solicit papers from social sciences and law, approaching the issue of the lives of women in Central Asia from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The first conference of this sort was designed to take stock of developments following 20 years of independence.

The chairs of the work groups which followed the plenary session were held by Prof. Katharina Scherke, Department of Sociology, Prof. Anita Prettenhaler-Ziegerhofer, Department of Austrian Legal History and European Legal Development, and Prof. Karin Maria Schmidlechner-Lienhart, Department of History from the University of Graz.⁴

The conference was offered in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Foundation Almaty, the Foundation “Initiative Roza Otunbayeva”, the International Office for Migration (IOM), the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria, the City of Graz and the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS).

Outcomes of EMPOWER so far:

- 1) Keynote speeches by former President of State, Mme. Roza Otunbayeva, as well as the current EU Special Representative for Central Asia, H.E. Amb. Dr. Patricia Flor, secured.
- 2) Financing for approximately 30 young scholars and representatives of NGO's from Central Asia obtained through Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Federal Chancellery of Austria.
- 3) Resolution on improving the situation of women in Central Asia adopted.

⁴ A list of all presenters grouped according to the work groups can be found at http://www.uni-graz.at/rdekacww/rdekacww_de_conferenceonruleoflaweducation-3.htm

3.3.4. CALPEX

CALPEX is proposed as a Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) – Multi-Partner-ITN for funding under the 7th Framework Programme of the EU to run for four years. The University of Graz has already submitted a proposal under this programme in January 2012. Indeed, the CALPEX-Proposal 2012 has achieved a good assessment in last year's evaluation. However, "good" was not sufficient to be funded and there was room for improvement according to the comments of the evaluators. On the basis of these remarks, REEES has been working since spring 2012 on a clearer involvement of private partners as well as on a better concretization of the corresponding training programmes, as these issues were raised by the evaluators. Moreover, REEES and its partners started to flag out an innovative vision for Central Asia 2020 "plus", through which future fellows of the programme are encouraged to work and study against the background of desired and undesired scenarios that affect the region. A partner workshop was held at the University of Graz (14- 15 October 2012). Apart from administrative issues such as secondments the workshop was crucial in elaborating a more consistent and comprehensive training programme which was rather critically discussed by this year's evaluation.

Lead Institution:

University of Graz (lead partner)

University institutions:

University of Barcelona (partner)

Humboldt University Berlin (partner)

KIMEP University Almaty (partner)

Private sector partners:

Altair Asesores (partner)

Landell Mills Ltd (partner)

SGS Consulting (partner)

GOPA GmbH (partner)

Others:

OSCE Academy Bishkek (partner)

FRIDE (partner)

International Anti-Corruption Academy (partner)

The main target group of this multi-partner ITN project consists of early stage researchers, recruited in an open competition from all over the world, which will carry out a research project at the network partners' venues in two different EU countries with a compulsory stage in Central Asia. Along this project, study and training opportunities will be provided by the pro-

gramme, which is based on the concepts of internationality, inter-sectorial and multicultural training and experience, transferable skills training, experience in the Central Asia region and multi-/interdisciplinary. Thus, the fellows will not only follow a pure academic curriculum; they will gain a unique understanding of the needs other sectors, disciplines, policies and activities. They will gain a related work experience in different European countries as well as in Central Asia. Additionally, they will get a chance of networking with future employers in the public and private sector, international academia and, equally importantly, with each other, for better research results and possibly leading to joint projects and young researcher training groups.

The CALPEX-programme is targeted to multidisciplinary regional studies covering Central Asia, dedicated to the training and formation of legal and political CA-experts for the EU. Participants will carry out research and gain a deep knowledge about the EU's priorities for the region and will be enabled to contribute effectively to policy development, analysis and coordination as well as to project management in an interdisciplinary, inter-sectorial and multicultural environment. CALPEX will provide cohorts of experts for the region of Central Asia who are able to adapt quickly to new emerging challenges and dispose of transferable skills which makes them valuable for a broad range of institutions from different sectors and countries, including the private sector and international institutions.

REEES tried to tackle the evaluators' critical comments of 2012 by designing the participation of private partners in such a way that it brings a "win-win" situation for both, the research and the private sector. For instance, private partners will assist the project by describing career trajectories in the four CALPEX topics of Rule of Law (University of Graz), Environment (University of Barcelona), Education (Humboldt University) and Security (KIMEP). Likewise, the specific contents of the training programme and its relation to the private sector will be better highlighted by comparative research methods, in which the capacity of private partners will be exploited.

The revised CALPEX proposal is due to be submitted on 22 November 2012.

3.3.5. Security and Democracy in the Neighbourhood: the Case of the Caucasus

Security and Democracy in the Caucasus (working title "DEMSEC") is a proposed project which runs under 7th Framework Programme of the EU. After much administrative and scientific groundwork of REEES and having agreed on a division of labor between EURAC Bolzano / Bozen (administrative lead) and University of Graz / REEES (scientific lead) in July /

August 2012, an international Consortium, consisting of European and local partners, was set up by REEES which will submit a project proposal within the current call of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union by January 2013. In addition, a first thematic partner workshop was already organized at the University of Graz on 28 / 29 October 2012, with all partners agreeing on general objectives, methodological issues, activities and the subdivision of work packages. A further fine-tuning workshop will be held at EURAC in the second week of January 2013.

Lead partners

EURAC Bolzano (administrative lead)
University of Graz / REEES (scientific lead)

European partners

OSCE CORE Centre Hamburg (partner)
NUPI – Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (partner)
IAI – Istituto Affari Internazionale (partner)
OBC – Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso (partner)
Berghof Foundation Berlin (partner)

Local partners

GFSIS – Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (partner)
Yerevan State University, Armenia (partner)
Qafqaz University Baku, Azerbaijan (partner)
TEPAV – Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (partner)
Centre for Humanitarian Programs Abkhazia (partner)

Within this proposal, the Consortium will have to identify and analyze the link between democracy and security in the Caucasus, the involvement of geopolitical players – their interests, their stakes – with a strong emphasis on the EU and its contemporary and potential policies towards the Caucasus. This means that a positive transformation strategy for the region focusing on how existing policies can be optimized will be sketched out by making use of a sound balance between regional and European partners in this project. Hence, both flaws and leverages of EU policies in order to elaborate a positive development scenario will be analyzed and critically examined. One major way to achieve this is by doing comparative approaches with both comparisons within the region and comparison between cases inside and outside of the region (Northern Cyprus and South Tyrol as models of inspiration). It will also be methodologically important to highlight worst practices in order to clearly state what went wrong. Apart from this, not only multi-disciplinary approaches which indeed form the

cornerstone of this proposal, will be undertaken, but also explicit disciplinary methods, where only historians, lawyers, economists etc. are contributing. This holds particularly true for the role of REEES and the University of Graz which will, e.g., contribute to a better legal analysis on responses to *de facto* existing states in the region.

The subdivision of the operational work packages is structured in such a way that it allows addressing all the raised issues of this FP7 call: whereas the first work package (“Security Dynamics”; lead partner CORE) will tackle the North-South Caucasus interplay as well as drivers of conflicts and regional security, the second operational work package (“Addressing conflicts in the Caucasus”; lead partner IA with strong contribution of REEES) will deal with perceptions of history in the region and will critically assess EU conflict resolution strategies in the region. The University of Graz will take the lead in the fourth work package (“Fostering Democracy in the Caucasus”) where it can draw on rich experience from other related projects (e.g. MOVE>>SEE-SC) and project proposals such as CALPEX (see above). Practices of rule of law in the Caucasus, the thorny interplay between security and democracy, but also delicate questions such as internal democratization of *de facto* states as prerequisite to conflict resolution will be addressed. And finally, the last work package (“Economic and Social Development in the Caucasus”; lead partner: OBC) will analyze the region in terms of its economic and social development, making use of disciplinary analyses in the realm of economics and civil society.

All work packages will see a strong involvement of local partners, helping to deliver the political message to the EU from an inside view.

3.3.6. Handbook on the Constitution of the Russian Federation

REEES is supporting Univ.-Prof. DDr. Bernd Wieser in the realization of his research project „Commentary on the Constitution of the Russian Federation“. This project was approved for financing by the FWF on 3 October 2011.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation passed Parliament on 12th December 1993 and came into force on 25th December 1993. Since then, it is the topic of a host of individual research projects by German speaking scholars on Eastern European Law. The goal of this project is to arrive at a common approach and fill the gaps by providing a complete description and analysis.

At the core of this project lies the complete evaluation of the jurisprudence of the Russian Constitutional Court. The commentary to be developed is a team work in which almost all important representatives of the German speaking science of Eastern European Law participate.

Russian commentaries on the Constitution of the Russian Federation virtually do not take into account scientific literature. Neither a systematic approach to the Court's jurisprudence nor scientific criticisms on the decisions can be found. Against this background, the commentary project is breaking completely new ground in a scientific way. It is expected that due to the results of the project an intensive scientific exchange with Russian colleagues will start.

Even if the commentary should become a juridical work it is self-understanding that from this will stem important incentives for other scientific disciplines. So it will be helpful, for example, for political science as well as general theory of the state, historical science, sociology but also (with regard to the very complex terminological questions) the linguistics. Furthermore, the importance of such ground-breaking work for the journalism and contemporary history is to be mentioned. Especially the introduction should be a standard literature for students of these fields, being interested in the developments in Russia.

3.4. Mid-term work programme

3.4.1. Batumi Summer School

One of the lessons learned in the framework of MOVE>>SEE-SC is that there is a high degree of interest among the countries of the Southern Caucasus to study the political-legal basis of EU integration. However, while Georgia is most firmly committed to EU integration and well advanced in approximating its laws to the common market rules of the EU, in Armenia and Azerbaijan the EU *acquis communautaire* is still rather distant. Instead, in the latter countries there is a lively interest in all kinds of security issues (human / energy / geostrategic security) and how the EU is shaping its external relations with the region in the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative.

A second dimension of this process is the economic development of the countries of the Southern Caucasus. Particularly in Azerbaijan where energy resources fuel a high level of growth, economic policy should be geared towards creating a sustainable development. Similar to Kazakhstan which is actively connecting to the "Green Bridge Project" the EU

should demonstrate that European integration goes beyond the approximation of legal rules and that it includes also the adoption of economic values.

Against this background, the first medium-term goal of REEES is the creation of a Summer School in Batumi (Georgia) to offer students (preferably on a B.A. and M.A. level) the possibility to acquire knowledge about the EU in a condensed manner. Subject-wise it is anticipated that the EU external relations vis-à-vis the region and economic development policies will be central to the curriculum.

As a first step and by using the support of the Government of Styria, REEES invited to Graz a number of representatives from Batumi as well as from other partner institutions in the region for the Black Sea Conference scheduled for 9 November 2012. Invited guests include:

- Mr. Arthur Atanesyan, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Applied Sociology, Yerevan State University, Armenia;
- Mr. Menua Soghomonyan, Academic Secretary, Chair of Political Sciences and International Relations Department of Yerevan State University, Armenia
- Mr. Adam Makharadze, Professor, Dean of the Law Faculty of Batumi Shota Rustaveli University;
- Mr. Abesalom Aslanidze, Head of Staff, Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara and Project Manager, Information Centre on Georgia-EU Relations.

On the basis of talks between Dean Marko and Dean Makharadze at the University of Graz, it is expected that in early 2013 a memorandum of understanding will be signed, on the basis of which the Graz / Batumi Summer School project will be further developed.

3.4.2. Joint LL.M. “Business Law and Economic Co-operation between the EU and Russia”

Based on the Law Faculty’s experience in postgraduate legal education (“Master in South East European Law & European Integration”), REEES facilitated contacts between the Law Faculty of the University of Graz and the Higher School of Jurisprudence in Moscow (Russian Federation). The latter institution is the postgraduate education provider for business and law of the National Research University / Higher School of Economics, one of Russia’s top universities. It runs a number of successful postgraduate programmes which are tailored to business people of Russia’s leading companies as well as to representatives of the central administration (both Presidential Administration as well as line ministries). In the talks with

Director Kuznetsov it became clear that there is a clear lack of possibilities for studying the legal basics necessary to engage in successful co-operation projects with business partners from the EU. It was also the express wish of Director Kuznetsov to build these contacts with a German-language university representing the continental legal tradition.

Currently there are negotiations under way for creating a joint LL.M. programme “Business Law and Economic Co-operation between the EU and Russia”. The curriculum agreed so far has the following structure:

Syllabus



1st semester

Module 1: Legal foundations of the cooperation between the EU and Russia (NRU HSE MOSCOW)		type	Audit. hrs.	ECTS
1.1	International Law and Economy	lecture	22	2,5
1.2	Integration and Cooperation in Europe	lecture	22	2,5
1.3	Bilateral Agreements between the EU and Russia	course	26	3,5
1.4	Conflict of laws	course	26	3,5
Total			96	12

Module 2: Institutional foundations of the EU (UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ)		type	Audit. hrs.	ECTS
2.1	The EU Legal System	lecture	22	2,5
2.2	Political Institutions and Internal Market of the EU	lecture	22	2,5
2.3	The EU Court System	course	26	3,5
2.4	State Aid and Public Procurement Law	course	26	3,5
Total			96	12

2nd semester

Module 3: EU business law (UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ)		type	Audit. hrs.	ECTS
3.1	European Company Law	course	26	3,5
3.2	EU Commercial Law	lecture	22	2,5
3.3	European Competition Law	course	26	3,5
3.4	International Sales Transactions	lecture	22	2,5
Total			96	12
Module 4: Economic cooperation between the EU and Russia (NRU HSE MOSCOW)		type	Audit. hrs.	ECTS
4.1	International Tax law	course	26	3,5
4.2	European Labour Law	lecture	22	2,5
4.3	International Law on Intellectual Property Protection	lecture	22	2,5



4.4	Dispute Settlement and Arbitration	course	26	3,5
Total			96	12
Module 5: External economic activity (JOINT MODULE IN NRU HSE MOSCOW)		type	Audit. hrs.	ECTS
5.1	Foreign Direct Investments	course	26	3,5
5.2	Mergers & Acquisitions	course	26	3,5
5.3	Comparative foreign market law in the EU and Russia	lecture	22	2,5
5.4	International banking law	lecture	22	2,5
Total			96	12

3rd semester

Master Thesis		type	Audit. hrs.	ECTS
	Academic writing and reasoning skills	course	24	3
	Master Thesis			25
	Defensio			2
Total			24	30
Total			504	90

Once this curriculum is finally agreed, it will go into the curriculum commission in both Universities. It is expected to start advertising the programme in spring 2013 and have the first cycle of studies start in autumn 2013.

3.4.3. Moot Court Project on the Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan and Development of “Eurasian Union Studies”

During the fact-finding mission to Kazakhstan in May 2012 talks were held at the Law School of KIMEP University, Almaty. The Dean of the Law School proposed to adapt the regional moot court competition format which REEES had already elaborated for the rule of law and adjust it to legal issues of the Customs Union between Russia, Belarus' and Kazakhstan. This proposal seemed interesting because it would not only highlight the economic development potential of Russia as a part of a larger group of countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China, BRIC), but also allow a critical analysis of Russia's leading role in evolving the Customs Union into a full-fledged Eurasian Union.

For the Law Faculty's perspective this development is particularly interesting because it would allow a comparative analysis of integration processes, taking the EU as a reference point. It was agreed that KIMEP would provide a skeleton problem that could become the subject of a moot court competition and that REEES would contact the leading scholars in Russia, Belarus' and Kazakhstan who deal with matters related to the Customs Union (mostly financial / tax law).

3.4.4. Industrial Ecology

One of the future challenges that REEES would like to address with regard to economic development particularly in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan is the issue of industrial ecology. Industrial ecology is an emerging interdisciplinary field combining natural, technical and social sciences in a system view at scale levels from the global to the local. Its core concept is the analogy between the processes in nature (biosphere) and the processes in society (technosphere).

At the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011 President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan suggested a Global Energy and Environment Strategy and Inter-Regional "Green Bridge" Partnership Program as Kazakhstan's proposition to the "Rio +20" Conference. The "Green Bridge" Program is aimed at implementing green investment projects in countries with different political systems and levels of economic development. The programme ensures the preservation and restoration of transboundary ecosystems. In Kazakhstan these are the basin ecosystems of the Aral and Caspian Seas as well as Balkhash Lake.

At the University of Graz there is a strong Institute of Systems Sciences, Innovation and Sustainability Research. One potentially interesting mid-term goal of REEES could be to cooperate with this Institute and bring its findings to the region. A first step towards this direction is already realized by the Erasmus Mundus Master programme in Industrial Ecology of which the University of Graz is the lead partner. The consortium includes:

- Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden)
- Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)
- Leiden University (Netherlands)
- Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- Rochester Institute of Technology (USA)
- Waseda University (Japan).

Participation in this programme is specifically for applicants from non-EU countries. REEES could try connect academic programmes such as the one outlined above with the political ambitions of countries like Kazakhstan where the academic infrastructure for dealing with such problems is still underdeveloped. How this can be done in practice remains to be discussed.

3.5. Other relevant activities

3.5.1. REEES guest lectures

In March 2011, the Hans Gross Kriminalmuseum of the University of Graz together with REEES organised a lecture of Colonel Dr. Tatiana Shukowa, assistant professor at the Department of Criminal Procedure Law at the University of the Department of the Interior of Russia in Moscow and expert in the area of international combat of crime, on the development and state of the art of safety policy and combat of crime in Russia. The title of her lecture was “Police in Russia. Combatting Crime and Security Policy in the Russian Federation“.

In 2012, Ms. Shukowa held another lecture on „Police in Russia. Combatting Crime and Security Policy in the Russian Federation“.

3.5.2. REEES country talks

With this series of outreach events REEES would like to create an opportunity for regular students, in particular from the Law Faculty, to get to know the benefits of specialising in Eastern / Eurasian studies. The goal is to take the visitors on journeys to countries of the region so that they can experience the law and culture of the countries concerned. In a casual atmosphere discussions are encouraged and supplemented by photo exhibitions as well as film presentations.

After one successful event on Uzbekistan in 2010, in December 2011 REEES conducted its second Country Talk on Kyrgyzstan with Ms. Jamilia Jeenbayeva, MSc and Dr. Sabine Machl. Ms. Jeenbayeva is of Kyrgyz origin and research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies of Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STs), Graz. Dr. Sabine Machl is former head of the Department of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and Senior Adviser for Central Asia at the OSCE High Commissioner for national minorities (Den Haag, NL). She is now heading the UN Women office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The next REEES country talk is expected to take place in December 2012. This time the destination will be Tajikistan.

3.5.3. General activities / science to public

In March 2011, the Webradio of the Graz University was broadcasting a report on REEES including an interview with Prof. Thomas Kruessmann.

From 1 to 30 June 2011, the Institute for Theoretical and Applied Translation Sciences (ITAT) of the University of Graz in co-operation with REEES showed the photo exhibition "From the Heart of Asia" by Drr. Slawomir Redo. f. UN Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Expert (UNODC Regional Office, ROCA, Tashkent, Uzbekistan). The exhibition showed inhabitants of Central Asia, their craftsmanship, customs and contemporary way of life, the beauty of its nature and architecture. The pictures were taken in the course of three years of travel through Central Asia, where the author enjoyed the remarkable hospitality of its people and the authorities.

On 6 June 2011, REEES invited the prominent Uzbek poet and writer Jodgor Obid to the University of Graz for a reading at the Slavic faculty and the official opening of the exhibition „From the Heart of Asia“. Jodgor Obid presented his poetry and read some of his poems in the Uzbek language. He wrote more than thousand poems and more than 50 songs and is the first Uzbek poet whose work was published in Austria. Mr. Obid represents the Austrian Society for Literature of international writers in Graz.



On 8 June 2011 REEES in co-operation with the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic organised a reception for the Kyrgyz President of State, Mme. Roza Otunbayeva, at which a large number of Kyrgyz students from all over Austria took part. The University of Graz was represented by a delegation of the Law Faculty. The head of the Graz delegation, Vice-Dean Prof. DDr. Bernd Wieser, was honoured to welcome Mme. Otunbayeva in Austria on behalf of the Austrian Universities and also had the opportunity to present to her the project for an EU Rule of Law Moot Court for Central Asia. Prof. Wieser finally invited Mme. Otunbayeva to visit the University of Graz.

On 26 April 2012 as a side event to the UN Crime Commission, the photo exhibition of Eric Gourlan entitled "Bishkek in Motion" was opened by H.E. Lidija Imanalieva, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Austria, at the Vienna International Centre.

4. REEES PUBLICATIONS

REEES does not have its own publication series for monographs. However, the results of MOVE>>SEE-SC shall be published in the series "Grazer Beiträge zum Recht der Länder Südosteuropas und der Europäischen Integration" (Graz Contributions to the Law of the Countries of South Eastern Europe and to European Integration) which is published by LIT Verlag Vienna. As for "Empower", a selection of the best presentations delivered at the conference "Women in Modern Central Asia" shall be published in a special review of Central Asian Review with Francis & Taylor. In addition, a full publication of the conference proceedings is planned.

In 2011 REEES started its own line of Public Policy Research Papers. No. 1 was authored by Prof. Thomas Kruessmann and is entitled "Consequences of *Dzhaksybergenov v Ukraine* on the extradition decision regarding Rakhat ALIYEV (SHORAZ) and associates in Austria".

In addition, the following research was published:

- Dr. Michael Friedrich of the Institute of Labour and Social Security Law at the University of Graz contributed a chapter entitled «Коллективный договор в Австрии» (Collective agreements in Austria) to the collection «Трудовое право России и стран Евросоюза» (Labour Law of Russia and the member-states of the EU), edited by Prof. Skachkova of the Institute of State and Law, Moscow.

- Mr. Benedikt Harzl together with Oleh Protsyk edited “Managing Ethnic Diversity in Russia”. This book was published as part of the Routledge Contemporary Russia and Eastern Europe Series.
- Prof. Thomas Kruessmann wrote an introduction to the panel report „Teaching Materials and E-Learning Platforms II”, to be published by ACUNS in 2012.
- Ms. Elizaveta Samoilova published the summaries on the “International Conference on Rule of Law Education” as well as its’ follow-up meeting in 2011.
- Ms. Elizaveta Samoilova also translated the introductory summary of Dr. Slawomir Redo’s “Blue Criminology. The Power of United Nations Ideas to Counter Crime Globally. A Monographic Study“, published in early 2012.

At the University of Graz, members of the Law Faculty outside of REEES are in charge of editing the following journals with relevance to the REEES target region. It is envisaged that these activities will increasingly be supported by REEES:

- Prof. Tomislav Borić is co-editor of Eastlex – Recht und Steuern in Osteuropa (Eastlex – Law and Taxes in Eastern Europe), published by Manz Vienna;
- Prof. DDr. Bernd Wieser is co-editor of Osteuropa-Recht (Eastern Europe-Law), published by Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag Berlin;
- Prof. Dr. Josef Marko is co-editor of Review of Central and East European Law, published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

5. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

17.-26.08.2011: European Forum Alpbach

Ms. Elizaveta Samoilova participated in the European Forum Alpbach and assisted in conducting the Seminar on "Justice: The Contribution of the EU and international Courts".

18.10.2011: Rill / Korinek Seminar at University of Economics Vienna

In preparation for the e-learning showcase lecture to be developed in the framework of ELEVATE, Ms. Elizaveta Samoilova participated in the Rill / Korinek Seminar on the case of Magnus Gäfgen before the European Court of Human Rights.

3.11.2011: Conference "Development of Russian Law"

Mr. Benedikt Harzl participated in the Helsinki conference "Development of Russian Law" and presented a paper entitled "Abkhazia - a case of remedial secession? Responses to developments in international law".

16.11.2011: Conference "Europe's Human Security Concerns in Central Asia"



For the preparation of the CALPEX programme, Prof. Thomas Kruessmann took part in the Berlin conference on "Europe's Human Security Concerns in Central Asia".

11.-13.1.2012: Conference "UN Agencies Reaching out to Academics and Civil Society"



As part of the abovementioned conference Prof. Thomas Kruessmann acted as moderator of the panel "Teaching Materials and E-Learning Platforms".

26.4.2012: "UN Crime Commission Side Event"



As a side event to the UN Crime Commission, REEES together with ACUNS and the UNODC hosted a panel on the topic "Preventing Human Trafficking and Violence against Migrants: From UN Concepts to E-Training". Prof. Kruessmann contributed a talk on innovative e-learning tools for rule of law education. The event took place in the Vienna International Center where Prof. Kruessmann together with the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic also opened a photo exhibition by Eric Gourlan entitled "Bishkek in Motion".

14.-15.6.2012: Research Symposium "Minorities and the EU Eastern Enlargement: Past, Present and Future Experiences"



In Tartu (Estonia), Mr. Benedikt Harzl gave a talk on the topic "The Rocky Road to Human and Minority Rights: Theory and Practice in Central Europe and Russia".

25.6.2012: Forum "Austrian – Uzbek Forum on Educational Cooperation"



On 25 June 2012 Prof. Thomas Kruessmann attended the "Austrian-Uzbek Forum on Educational Co-operation" organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Austria and the Vienna University of Technology. The aim of the forum was to discuss existing successful collaboration between Austria and Uzbekistan in the educational sector, as well as providing impetus for further deepening of educational co-operation.

15.-26.08.2012: European Forum Alpbach

Ms. Elizaveta Samoilova participated for the second time in the European Forum Alpbach.

11.09.2012: Discussions with the Director of the Higher School of Jurisprudence, Moscow



On 11 September 2012 Prof. Thomas Kruessmann met in Moscow with the Director of the Higher School of Jurisprudence, Dr. Dmitri Levonovič Kuznetsov, to discuss the founding of a joint postgraduate LL.M. Programme. The subject matter of this programme will be business law and economic co-operation between the EU and Russia. The Higher School of Jurisprudence is the professional school for law and business of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, one of the top 5 universities of the Russian Federation.

12-15.09.2012: Second Legal Forum in Almaty



On 12 September 2012 Prof. Thomas Kruessmann joined the Second Legal Forum in Almaty / Kazakhstan with a lecture on "Asset tracing and recovery".

11-13.10.2012: Conference "Europe and Russia - Partners in a Globalized World"



On 11 - 13 October, REEES participated in the organisation of the international conference "Europe and Russia – Partners in a Globalized World" which was held at the Vienna International Centre. On behalf of REEES, Ms. Elizaveta Samoiloova additionally participated in the "Roundtable for Europe-Russia Dialogue" on 11 October 2012, the following day Prof. Thomas Kruessmann chaired session II "Russian and the European Dream".

11-13.10.2012: Conference "Security, Democracy and Development in the Southern Caucasus and the Black Sea Region" in Istanbul



From 11-13 October, Benedikt Harzl participated in the Conference "Security, Democracy and Development in the Southern Caucasus and the Black Sea region". The Conference was organized by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN) and took place at Istanbul's Kadir Has University. Apart from meeting partners of the proposed DEMSEC project, this Conference was crucial in generating knowledge of recent events in the region.

6. ANNEXES

6.1. FOUNDING DECLARATION REEES

1. PREAMBLE

The University of Graz

Bearing in mind the role of the United Nations, the European Union and other international and regional organisations in political, economic, legal and other social and cultural fields,

Bearing also in mind the preamble of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization which states that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed”,

Aware of the Statement of the President of the United Nations Security Council⁵ on Threats to International Peace and Security, in which the Council noted the growing concern regarding the serious threats posed in some cases by drug trafficking and transnational organised crime to international security in different regions of the world, and, in this context, further that drug trafficking and transnational organised crime contribute to undermine the authority of states,

Aware also of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/23 of 11 January 2001 which reminded of the specificities of each civilization and the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 which considers, inter alia, that tolerance is one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and should include the active promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, with human beings respecting one another, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity,

Mindful of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 230/65 of 21 December 2010 (Annex) which recognized the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law and stressed that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system have a positive influence on each other,

Emphasising the importance of co-operation with other parts of the world for better international and intercultural understanding, facilitating peace and security of mankind through education and training in the legal field,

⁵ [S/PRST/2010/4 of 24 February 2010](#).

Emphasising also the role of international, intergovernmental, non-governmental and civic organisations in building bridges among nations, peoples and cultures,

Emphasising finally the role of international and national educational and training institutions for national and international co-operation with the objective to optimise and coordinate research potential and field project expertise and their contributive role to facilitating peace and security through legal field programmes and projects,

establishes the Russian East European and Eurasian Studies Centre (hereinafter “REEES”).

2. SUBJECT

2.1. Objective

REEES has the objective to act as a catalyst in defining an international and intercultural research agenda with a view to fostering linkages between academic research and policy-oriented practical interventions. Its initial task is to optimise existing potentials for research programmes and project expertise within the Law Faculty of the University of Graz related to the target areas (see below section 2.3), which is to be followed by comprehensive interdisciplinary research programmes both within the University of Graz and with academic partners, government and non-government organisations as well as other stakeholders in the target areas.

The vision of REEES is to transcend the boundaries of legal scholarship and rise to the complexity of social and cultural relations that form the background against which law operates. It, therefore, adopts a holistic approach to law, in particular with regard to the intercultural dimensions of collaborative work with the target areas.

2.2. Activities

REEES initializes, coordinates and supports regional research programmes and projects. It acts as an interface for country-specific as well as professional expertise regarding law in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. In addition, REEES acquires application-oriented contract research and harmonises it with existing resources of the related institutes and institutions at the University of Graz.

REEES manages its work at an advanced scientific level in research, education and training. The activities are carried out in the form of programmes and projects. REEES promotes the transfer of knowledge by disseminating its research results to intergovernmental and governmental institutions or agencies that are responsible for implementing co-operation strategies domestically and / or internationally.

2.3 Target areas

The geographical target areas of REEES in research, education and training programmes and projects are Russia, the countries in the Black Sea/Southern Caucasus region and Central Asia. The specific country-approach may vary, but apart from bilateral issues as defined from the perspective of the Republic of Austria, regional approaches in line with the relevant EU strategies are given preference. The definition of target areas does not preclude that activities cover neighbouring countries and the relevant regions in a wider context as well.

3. CO-OPERATION

3.1. Intra-university co-operation

REEES adopts an interdisciplinary approach to its work and offers co-operation to all faculties and disciplines of the University of Graz with an interest in the target regions. In particular, it maintains close co-operation with inter-faculty institutions such as the Centre for South-East European Studies, the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, and the Academy of New Media and Transfer of Knowledge.

3.2. Cooperation with institutions outside the University of Graz

REEES is member of international scholarly networks and cooperates with national and international government and non-government organisations.

4. LEGAL STATUS

4.1. Centre under § 15 Organisation Plan

The Rectorate establishes REEES as a Centre under § 15 of the organisation plan of the University of Graz, it belongs to the science branch of law. It reports to the Dean of the Law Faculty as well as to the Rector of the University.

4.2. Assignment of staff and academic output

University staff working at REEES that are not normally assigned to REEES but to other co-operating academic units of the University of Graz (hereinafter “Core Staff”) remain assigned to the respective academic units of the University of Graz (hereinafter “Home Institutes”) and report to the heads of these academic/organisational units. University staff assigned to REEES report to the REEES Director.

The provision of services by Core Staff at REEES is subject to a framework agreement drawn up with the heads of the co-operating academic units and agreed upon at the Faculty level. Besides, an agreement between the employee’s superior at the Home Institute, the

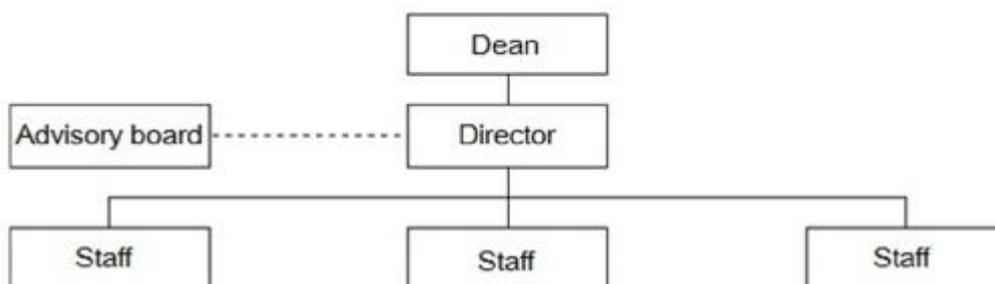
REEES Director and the employee is required on the percentage of the working time the employee is assigned to REEES (in the case of employees who hold the titles of “o.Univ.-Prof.”, “Univ.-Prof.”, or “ao.Univ.-Prof.” the types of services they provide have to be indicated and a note that their duties and responsibilities at the Home Institute remain unaffected has to be included). Details on the duties and responsibilities at REEES will be agreed upon by the REEES Director and the employee.

Staff for projects under §§ 26 to 28 University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002) are assigned to REEES and report to the REEES Director in matters concerning employment and to the project director in matters concerning the project.

REEES agrees to acknowledge in all published works, publications, and on all websites that the centre is an entity of the University of Graz.

4.3. Internal structure

REEES is established within the Dean’s Office of the Law Faculty of the University of Graz. It is chaired by a Director; its staff includes programme officers and secretarial support. Depending on external funding there are prae-doc as well as post-doc researchers working on individual projects.



4.4. Director

The REEES Director is the head of the Centre and represents it. In order to carry out the duties and responsibilities attached to the office of REEES Director the Rector authorises the REEES Director to:

1. Acquire assets and rights through gratuitous legal transactions;
2. Accept external funding;
3. Conclude agreements on academic and non-academic work;
4. Use assets and rights acquired in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs 1 to 3 in line with the objectives of REEES.

The REEES Director ensures that the foreseen activities of REEES are carried out in accordance with legal requirements and internal rules and regulations of the University of Graz, in particular with the authorisation directive (Bevollmächtigungs-Richtlinie) of the University of Graz. § 27 University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002) applies accordingly.

4.5. Deputy Director

On proposal of the REEES Director, the Rector appoints a Deputy Director. The Deputy Director represents the REEES Director when the latter is absent or otherwise unable to act for a longer period of time until the appointment of a new or interim REEES Director.

4.6. Advisory Board

REEES is supported in meeting its objectives by advisory boards. Advisory boards can be established both on a programme basis and for the entire REEES as such. A Model Statute for Advisory Boards is annexed hereto.

4.7. Provision of services and reimbursement of costs

When REEES uses staff and equipment of the University of Graz for projects under §§ 26 to 28 University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002), REEES reimburses the University in accordance with the guidelines on the reimbursement of costs incurred by projects under §§ 26 to 28 University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002), as amended. Where reimbursement is based on a lump sum, costs of services that are standard services by the University of Graz and that are provided by REEES itself are deducted.

REEES reimburses the University of Graz all costs borne by the University but incurred by REEES project activities under §§ 26 to 28 University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002).

The Dean and the REEES Director specifically agree on all payments to REEES in the agreement on objectives. Services REEES provides to the University of Graz and the coverage of costs incurred by REEES are specified in the agreement on objectives.

If REEES funds are insufficient due to no or low revenues, the University of Graz reserves the right to use all assets/funds assigned to REEES or funds suitable according to the provisions of the University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002) to cover the Centre's accounts payable. In the case of insufficient funds, the REEES Director immediately submits a restructuring plan and/or a plan detailing actions to cover shortfalls to the Dean. Funds acquired from external sources are available to REEES subject to earmarks.

4.8. Agreement on objectives

The REEES Director concludes agreements on objectives with the Dean.

4.9. External funding

REEES uses funds secured from external sources in accordance with the objectives of the Centre, unless these funds are earmarked for specific use (projects under § 28 University Act 2002 [Universitätsgesetz 2002]).

4.10. Quality management/Evaluation

Quality management guidelines of the University of Graz fully apply to REEES. The first evaluation of REEES will be carried out three years after its establishment and then at intervals of three years. If REEES is evaluated negatively, the Rector and the Dean of the Faculty of Law will mutually decide on maintaining or dissolving the Centre.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Rectorate decided to establish REEES on 3rd November 2011. The Founding Declaration enters into force on the day following its publication in the official gazette (Mitteilungsblatt) of the University of Graz.

6.2. STATUTE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(1) The Advisory Board of the Russian Eastern European and Eurasian Studies Centre (the Centre is hereinafter referred to as "REEES") assists REEES in achieving its goals as laid down by its Terms of Reference.

(2) The Advisory Board is a consultative body that provides the platform with recommendations on improvement of the REEES work programme.

(3) The Advisory Board activity is regulated by the laws of Austria, the bye-laws of the University of Graz, and this Statute.

2. ADVISORY BOARD OBJECTIVES AND MANDATE

(1) The Advisory Board's objectives and mandates are:

- to co-ordinate positions and to build approaches towards solving mandated issues in the field of Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian legal, international and intercultural co-operation;
- to provide recommendations on improving the existing REEES work programme, as determined by the University of Graz, to ensure cohesion of the mandated issues and the work programme;
- to provide recommendations on the medium- and long-term REEES development strategy in the areas of legal, international and intercultural research co-operation, in accordance with the major areas of the REEES work programme;

- to provide expert assessment of the REEES work programme ;

(2) The Advisory Board, in particular, provides advice:

- on enlargement and improvement of the existing range of available services;
- to the project team of REEES on how to achieve the project objectives;
- on the dissemination of the research results and the opening of pathways for further use of the acquired expert knowledge;
- on mainstreaming of project results to the relevant decision makers;
- on facilitating the maintenance of contacts to stakeholders, universities, research institutions, governmental organisations and NGOs on national and international level.

3. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

(1) A maximum of ten personalities in their individual capacity, prospectively contributing to a balanced out international and inter-cultural approach to Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian studies and pragmatic action, will be the members of the Advisory Board. These personalities are selected by REEES and appointed by the Rector or on his/her behalf.

(2) The term of the entire Advisory Board is limited to 5 years beginning with the date its last individual member is appointed. The term is renewable for one additional 5 year term after the expiration of the first appointment.

(3) Subsequent Advisory Board members are selected by the Advisory Board and appointed by the Rector or on his/her behalf, on the same principle.

(4) Members of administrative bodies of REEES, the REEES Director and his / her staff as well as University Auditors may not become members of the Advisory Board.

(5) A member of the Advisory Board has the right to cancel his/her membership at any time.

(6) An Executive Secretary organises the activities of the Advisory Board. The Executive Secretary is selected among Advisory Board members or REEES staff members.

(7) The Executive Secretary is responsible for:

- organising the activity of the Advisory Board;
- preparing Advisory Board meetings, informing Board members of time and place of the meetings;
- carrying out Advisory Board meetings;
- submitting to the Advisory Board's consideration suggestions on its activity plan;
- preparing and conducting routine documentation of the Advisory Board activities including protocols, legalization and mailing of the Board's decisions;
- preparing reports about the activities of the Advisory Board and decisions made at the meetings for the Rector and the REEES Director.

4. OBSERVER STATUS

In addition to regular Advisory Board membership, REEES can offer an observer status to interested individuals, undertakings and international organisations. Observers may participate in the Advisory Board meetings, but without the right of casting a vote.

5. CHAIRPERSON OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

(1) Upon the founding of REEES, the Rector appoints a chairperson *ad interim* who will assist the REEES Director with inviting suitable candidates for membership in the Advisory Board. At the first Advisory Board meeting, to be held approximately one year after the creation of REEES, the Advisory Board will elect its Chairperson by a simple majority vote.

(2) The Chairperson prepares the agenda for the Advisory Board meetings and maintains liaison with the Advisory Board members in the intervals between meetings.

6. ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

(1) The Advisory Board meets once a year for at least one working day. A special meeting must be initiated by a group of at least one half of its members or the Director of REEES.

(2) The meetings of the Advisory Board are conducted and recorded in English.

(3) The University provides relevant conference facilities and interpretation services from/to English to/from German and Russian for the meetings of the Advisory Board, as appropriate.

(4) Meetings of the Advisory Board may be organised in absentia through the use of electronic means of communication and consequent legalization of decisions on paper media.

(5) The activities of the Advisory Board are organised in accordance with work programme plans, meeting agendas are developed by the Board with consideration to REEES and its Director.

(6) Results of the Advisory Board's activities are presented in the form of decisions.

(7) The Advisory Board is authorised to make decisions in instances when at least one half of its members are present.

(8) Decisions are made by simple majority vote from the number of those present and are signed by the Executive Secretary.

(9) Each Advisory Board member has one vote during voting at meetings.

(10) The Advisory Board may organise workgroups within its structure to address specific mandated issues or activity areas. Workgroup reports are delivered at the Advisory Board meetings and, in case of their approval, will be formalised as Advisory Board decisions.

(11) The Advisory Board may invite competent experts to attend its meetings in order to consider the most difficult matters. Experts take part in Advisory Board meetings and have the right of a deliberative vote.

(12) The Advisory Board may be dismissed if and when the Rector, after consultation with the Director of REEES, determines and communicates this in writing to the Chairperson of the Advisory Board.

(13) Participation of the Advisory Board member in the REEES meeting(s) is possible if and when the University covers the member's daily subsistence allowance and travel costs.