

Annual Report 2012/13
and Mid-Term Development Plan



Russian East European & Eurasian Studies Centre
University of Graz

Current as of 25 February 2014

Table of Contents

FROM THE DIRECTOR

1. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

2. ORGANISATION AND FINANCING

3. ACTIVITIES IN 2012-2013

- 3.1. Teaching
- 3.2. Projects
- 3.3. Publications
- 3.4. Applications for financing
- 3.5. Student and staff mobility
- 3.6. Participation of REEES staff in meetings and conferences
- 3.7. Outreach / "Science to Public"

4. MID-TERM WORK PROGRAMME

5. ANNEXES

- 5.1. Founding Declaration
- 5.2. Statute of the Advisory Board

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Autumn 2013 marks the third year of REEES' activities. During the academic year 2012-13 REEES fully operated as a Faculty Centre within the Law Faculty of the University of Graz. Compared to the beginnings described in the Annual Report for 2011-12, REEES embraced a wider variety of topics, increased the amount of project applications and by all accounts reached a critical mass that made it necessary to think about a solidification of its operations. To this end, the Dean's Office decided to increase the staffing of REEES and support a full-time position for its Director.

It is probably true to say that the activities reported here for the academic year 2012-13 foreshadow those of the following academic year. But while the deadline of this report ought to have been the beginning of the current academic year 2013-14, REEES concluded "Ziel- und Leistungsvereinbarungen" (Agreement on Goals and Deliverables) with the Dean's Office and committed itself firmly to a very ambitious catalogue of deliverables. So the public reporting done through this Annual Report obviously suffered, but all for the better because many goals have already been reached. Let's keep it with the Russian saying that "Everything that is not done is done for the better". Even if it's done later.

Again I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Dean Prof. Josef Marko and his committed team, especially to Dr. Doris Vones-Faschalleg. Their inventiveness and untiring hard work has made many things possible that otherwise would have been unthinkable. My greetings also go out to the many friends of REEES in the Russian Federation, in the countries and territories of the South Caucasus and in Central Asia. Social media have added much joy to our work in an ever smaller world. So thank you all and hope to see you soon again!

Graz, February 2014

Thomas Krüßmann, Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "TK", written in a cursive style.

1. 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 Russia, 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 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, which is 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 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 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.

In addition to its regional focus, REEES seeks to strengthen its ties with the United Nations (in particular UNIDO, UNODC and UN Women) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, OECD, OSCE, IOM and IACA.

2. ORGANISATION AND FINANCING

REEES is a Faculty 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 prae-doc as well as post-doc researchers working on individual projects.

The **core staff** of REEES during the reporting period was as follows:

Director (part-time)	Thomas Krüßmann, Prof. Dr., LL.M.
Senior Researcher (full-time)	Benedikt Harzl, Mag. iur., M.A.
Senior Researcher (part-time)	Larissa Ogertschnig, Dr. iur. (01.03.2013 – 31.07.2013)
Junior Researcher (part-time)	Elizaveta Samoilova Mag.iur. (until July 2013), Zurab Simonishvili, Mag. iur. (by July 2013)
Office Manager (part-time)	Verena Fink (until August 2013) Elena Scharbanov, Mag.phil. (by August 2013)
Programme Officers	none

An important part of the REEES operations lies with **student assistants**. They are the “ambassadors” and the face of REEES, and they help to connect it to their home countries. In this respect Svetlana Kim (Uzbekistan), Alsu Garaeva (Tatarstan / Russian Federation) and Meerim Aidarova (Kyrgyzstan) formed an integral part of the entire team. The student team was supported by our intern Bojan Slijepčević.

The **Advisory Board** of REEES serves as an important link with the United Nations and various other international and non-governmental organisations. 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 (Poland), formerly UN Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Expert (chairperson);
- Mr. Michael Platzer (USA), Liaison Officer of the Academic Council of the United Nations System and Chair Vienna NGO Alliance for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
- Mr. Walter Kemp (Canada), Director for Europe and Central Asia, International Peace Institute;
- Mr. Dejan Keserović (Serbia), IOM Coordinator for Central Asia - Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In addition, Mr. Alexandre Schmidt (UNODC) and Mr. Jacek Cukrowski resp. Mr. Franz Brugger (UNIDO) joined 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) as well as through grants from other institutions.

3. ACTIVITIES IN 2012-13

3.1 Teaching

During the academic year 2012-13 teaching by **Prof. Krüßmann** was limited to the 9 hrs. class “Protections against Bribery and Corruption” in the framework of the LL.M. programme “Master in South East European Law & European Integration” (2012-2014). Due to his part-time position regular REEES teaching was not foreseen. However, Prof. Krüßmann’s tenure was expanded to full-time in August 2013 so that teaching was taken up by the winter term 2013/14.

In the winter term 2012/13 **Benedikt Harzl** taught the seminar “Human Rights: Minority Protection and Conflict Management”.

During the academic year 2012-13 preparations for the **Joint Degree University Programme “Business Law and Economic Cooperation between the EU and Russia”** progressed and it was expected to have the teaching started by October 2013 (see conclusion of an agreement of co-operation on 30.7.2013 between National Research University / Higher School of Economics and the University of Graz). However, due to delays in the preparation of the necessary documentation the time period for advertising was rather short and only a small number of applicants appeared. It was therefore decided to launch the programme only in the academic year 2014/15. More information is available at the programme’s website <http://eurus.uni-graz.at>.

3.2 Projects

3.2.1 Overview of REEES Projects and Activities

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

- **ELEVATE** - enhancing 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;
- **MOVE** - 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;
- **EMPOWER** – to understand socio-economic transformation processes in Central Asia through analysis of the role of women.

In addition to these established projects (cf. Annual Report 2011-2012) REEES engaged in organizing a summer school on EU Law in the South Caucasus, held together with Shota Rustaveli State University of Batumi (Georgia). Its acronym is EULISC which stands for EU Law in the South Caucasus.

3.2.2. Projects completed in 2012-13

3.2.2.1 DENROL

In the framework of ELEVATE and following up on the fact finding mission to Central Asia in May 2012 at which consultations were held with the Presidential Administration Academies both in Bishkek and in Astana it became clear that rule of law programmes in Central Asia are difficult to sustain (no national priority, regional model only). Nevertheless when asked to take over a TEMPUS consortium to establish a joint doctoral programme in the Kyrgyz Republic, REEES agreed. The aim of the project was to introduce an advanced Bologna-style doctorate in rule of law and good governance in the higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic. The project was called **DENROL** (Doctoral Educational Network on Rule of Law and Good Governance in the Kyrgyz Republic).

DENROL envisaged:

- to modernize curricula in academic disciplines identified as priorities by the Kyrgyz Republic, using the European Credit Transfer System, the three cycle system and the recognition of degrees;
- to build up capacities of the higher education infrastructure of the Kyrgyz Republic for enhanced international co-operation;
- to foster the reciprocal development of human resources;
- to introduce innovative learning tools such as moot-court competitions for the DENROL program;
- to develop an e-learning platform/blended learning methodology;
- to improve local education and research through teacher training and retraining;
- to reinforce links between Kyrgyz universities, society and institution from abroad;
- to exploit synergies with other projects dealing with related topics in the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia in general, particularly in terms of exchange of experience, dissemination and outreach;
- to create Graduate PhD Schools in the relevant universities of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- to disseminate the project results;
- to control and monitor the quality of the project as well as to ensure its visibility and sustainability beyond the TEMPUS funding.

Apart from this, DENROL also sought to establish synergies with the EU-CA Rule of Law platform project, which has been launched by the European Commission.

REEES as the lead contractor entered into talks with the following potential partners:

EU partners

- University of Barcelona, Spain
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Kyrgyz Republic partners

- Kyrgyz National University
- Kyrgyz State Academy of Law
- Academy of Management under the President of the KR Republic
- International University of Kyrgyzstan
- Osh State University
- Ysyk Kul State University

However, increasingly there was no feedback from Kyrgyz partner universities so that the project was finally aborted. It became clear that the project was meant to bolster “failing” law faculties which had no potential to sustain doctoral studies in law. Otherwise, there were no projects completed in 2012.

3.2.2.2 Summer Seminar 2013 University of Helsinki

At the 26th Summer Seminar on International Law "Rule of Law: A Contested Concept" from 19.-30.8.2013 in Helsinki the REEES Advisory Board Chairman Dr. jur. hab. Slawomir Redo held a two-day workshop entitled "Central Asia and the Rule of Law: Legacies, Policies and Solutions - Known by Heart?".



3.2.3 Projects ongoing



3.2.3.1 ELEVATE

Beyond the aforementioned projects there were no rule of law projects ongoing in 2012-2013.



3.2.3.2 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 a number of 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 competences as well as to its institutional structure concerning the relations to third countries in the East. 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.

During the year 2012-13 there were no common project activities. Instead, project participants received individual consultations and were advised on revisions to their papers. In order to balance the topical approach, a few outside contributors joined:

1. Vanda Diaz: EU Relations with Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan: An Overview of EU policies and Approaches towards Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.
2. Sezen Ergen: Turkey, Black Sea and the EU: Where Titans Clash.

All edited and finalized papers are now available at <http://russian-east-european-urasian-studies.uni-graz.at/de/projekte/move-see-sc/movedownloads/>. So far 8 out of 12 papers are prepared for publication.

3.2.3.3 EMPOWER



Following up on the international conference “Women in Modern Central Asia” which was already covered in the Annual Report 2011-12, out of the 30+ participants who presented papers the minimum amount of 8 authors could be convinced to try and develop a special issue on gender of the renowned journal Central Asian Survey. The editor-in-chief, Prof. Deniz Kandiyoti of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, provided invaluable support and encouragement to go through the peer-review process required for publication.

The following papers are already finalized:

1. Alma Sultangaliyeva: Women and Religion in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan. A View from Within
2. Benjamin Quasinowski /Bahyt Muratbayeva: Vernacularization of “Gender” in Kazakhstan: A Microethnographic View on Interactions in the Workplace of an International Development Organization
3. Juliette Cleuzio: Polygyny in Tajikistan: Ideological Contortions, Economic Realities and Everyday Life Practices
4. Mahabat Sadyrbek: “There is no State in this Country” – Legal and Social Treatment of Marital Rape in Kyrgyzstan.

Four more papers are still awaiting final revisions. All papers are available at <http://russian-east-european-urasian-studies.uni-graz.at/de/forschen/projekte/empower/sonderheft-cas/cas-downloads/>.



On 28.03.2013 REEES participated in the conference **"Violence Against Women and Femicide"**. Panelists of diverse backgrounds and expertise presented insights and success stories about women who have survived and prevailed over violence and its effects, including rape and HIV-AIDS. Impunity and the legal response to femicide were also examined. Panelists represented work in Africa, Asia and Europe and included practices for facing, overcoming and preventing domestic violence as well as successful work to rescue and support girls and women who were victims of sex trafficking. Perspectives from education, legal measures, psychology, grass roots service and advocacy were presented.



Another activity that took place in the framework of EMPOWER was the organization of a side event to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held on 22-26.04.2013 at the United Nations in Vienna. The side event dealt with the topic of **“Women’s Role in Central Asia in View of the 2014 Afghanistan Transition”** and was co-organized with UNODC, ACUNS and the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations.

It aimed at presenting the views and perspectives of representatives from Central Asia, academic experts and substantive practitioners on the challenges that the withdrawal of the ISAF/NATO in the year 2014 could pose on Central Asia and the particular role of women therein.

Ever since the international community and the Government of Afghanistan agreed the 2014 withdrawal of the international forces, different concerns and reaction have been raised. A series of international agreements have been signed to address the concerns of the international community, particularly the countries of Central Asia, however, there are still many issues that need to be discussed. Against this background, the possible impacts and potential of the post 2014 on the situation of women in the countries of Central Asia were at the core of the debate. Panelists discussed ways to ensure equal opportunity for women to participate in the political and public life; best opportunities to encourage women’s participation in conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict reconstruction; as well as showcase experiences to promote women’s equal economic opportunity and non discriminatory approaches.

Ultimately, the side event’s goal was to sensitize the audience on the role of the women in the perspective of the 2014 transition process within and around Afghanistan.

3.2.3.4 EULISC Summer School



In July 2013 REEES together with Shota Rustaveli University of Batumi (Georgia) organized the first annual Summer School on EU Law in the South Caucasus (EULISC). This summer school hosted 25 students from all countries of the wider Caucasus region as well as from Europe and offered a platform to discuss and elaborate on current topics in the field of EU law with legal and political relevance for the states of the South Caucasus. Academic experts from both Europe and the Caucasus combined to teach EU law with the specific environment of the region in mind. The summer school was targeted towards young lawyers of the South Caucasus as future practitioners and decision-makers dealing with the region.

EULISC 2013 was co-financed by the Styrian Government. In the following years EULISC will remain to a key feature of REEES activities in the region. With the help of REEES, Shota Rustaveli State University in August 2013 managed to obtain Jean Monnet financing for a teaching module in the years 2014-2016. This teaching module financing will provide the backbone of EULISC in the coming years.

3.3 Publications

REEES is currently preparing a number of conference proceedings and research reports which are written by a number of authors. Much time and effort has been expended in particular on editing papers and preparing authors for peer reviews, esp. in the framework of EMPOWER.

In terms of **individual publications**, the following can be noted:

- Benedikt Harzl with Oleh Protsyk edited “Managing Ethnic Diversity in Russia”, published in the Routledge Contemporary Russia and Eastern Europe Series New York 2013. Both also contributed an introductory chapter (pp. 1-11).
- Benedikt Harzl: Potentials and Shortcomings for Conflict Resolution in the Caucasus – the European Neighbourhood Policy, in Krüßmann (Ed.), MOVE>>SEE-SC. New (Legal) Challenges for the European Neighbourhood Policy (2013, forthcoming).
- Elizaveta Samoilova: Poking the Bear? Russia and the EU in the Black Sea Region, in Krüßmann (Ed.), MOVE>>SEE-SC. New (Legal) Challenges for the European Neighbourhood Policy (2013, forthcoming).

Outside the realm of REEES topics Prof. Krüßmann

- revised his book chapter „Verwertungsprobleme bei Präventiverkenntnissen“ (Problems of admissibility of evidence gained by preventive police measures), published in the 5th edition of Handbuch des Fachanwalts Strafrecht under the editorship of Jan Bockemühl (Carl Heymanns Verlag: Cologne 2012, pp. 1245-1269);
- published the book chapter „Besondere Formen der grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit“ (Special types of cross-border cooperation) in the Encyclopedia of European Law (Enzyklopädie Europarecht Bd. 9) under the editorship of Armin Hatje and Peter-Christian Müller-Graff (Nomos: Baden-Baden 2013, pp. 679-696).

In addition to the above publications, **faculty members outside of REEES** are in charge of editing the following publications. 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;

- Prof. DDr. Bernd Wieser is co-editor of Osteuropa-Recht (Eastern Europe-Law), published by Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag;
- Prof. Dr. Josef Marko is co-editor of Review of Central and East European Law, published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. Benedikt Harzl is book review editor of this journal.

3.4 Applications for financing

3.4.1 CALPEX as Marie Curie Application

On 22.11.2012 REEES re-submitted CALPEX as a **Multi-Partner Initial Training Network** in the framework of the **Marie Curie Programme**. Details on the revised programme were already given in the previous Annual Report.

The EU evaluators acknowledged a high quality of the proposal. In detail, they wrote:

“Strenghts

- *The idea of the proposal is very good and relevant. The scientific objectives of the project are structured in accordance to the policy of the European Union relating to Central Asia. In this respect, the political needs are clearly presented.*
- *The approach of the proposal is innovative and important because it aims to create experts of Law in an emerging area with serious problems of legal organization, human rights, criminal and civil law.*
- *The multidisciplinary approach is well designed by the applicants because they connect the legal perspectives to an evaluation in historical and socio-politic terms.*
- *The project involves academic, private and third sectors with a serious approach to the legal problems related to Central Asia. Contribution of the private sector is clear and properly designed, stemming from correct conviction: ‘private, public and third sector partners will define profiles for wanted experts and practitioners’.*

Weaknesses

- *The scientific quality of the research training programme is not sufficiently demonstrated and to a large extent replaced by enumeration and brief description of individual research projects. Their coherence is not adequately demonstrated. The presentation of the state-of-the-art insome domains is not fully provided and this makes the training programme not fully convincing.*
- *The basic methodological concept – ‘scenario thinking’ – in the words of the proposal is not sufficiently defined, especially it does not refer to any scientific method of forecasting and simulation (such as extrapolation, methods based on analogies, heuristic methods, morphological analysis etc.).*

Overall comments

The idea of this project is very good. However, the presentation of the scientific quality is not fully convincing.(...)

Unfortunately, it was again decided that the project will not obtain EU funding.

3.4.2 A-DIALOGUE

A-DIALOGUE (short for “Addressing democracy, security, rule of law and conflict management for a better governance in the Caucasus region”) was submitted as an **FP7 proposal** for a collaborative research project on 31.1.2013. It was designed to establish an innovative research programme dedicated to the analysis of the interplay between the key dimensions of security and democracy in the Caucasus. On this basis, the project aimed at reviewing the EU’s policies on the region in a cost-effective manner. The project was to be implemented in four substance-oriented work packages (WP) aimed at equipping policy makers and other target groups such as the media with a deeper understanding of the challenges the region is facing and options for the way ahead, thereby overcoming the political deadlock of the Caucasus region today.

The topics to be analyzed covered the full realm of contemporary political, social, and economic challenges: A-DIALOGUE proposed to focus on the dimensions of security dynamics (WP3), analysis of conflicts (WP4), rule of law and good governance (WP5), as well as economic and social challenges (WP6). The Consortium, consisting of outstanding European and Caucasus partners, was equally designed to address bottom-up and top-down assessment methods through the installation of locally organized Fora of Exchange and a handpicked Board of Independent Experts, whose critical evaluation would directly feed into the research process and, consequently, the findings of A-DIALOGUE.

For application purposes it was decided that REEES would take the scientific lead and that administrative issues would be handled by the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC).

The consortium of A-DIALOGUE comprised the following partners:

- Qafqaz University, Baku (Azerbaijan)
- Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (NUPI), Oslo (Norway)
- Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso / Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti (OPC), Rovereto (Italy)
- Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg (CORE), Hamburg (Germany)
- Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome (Italy)
- Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GSFIS), Tbilisi (Georgia)
- Türkiye Ekonomi Politikları Araştırma Vakfı (TEPAV), Ankara (Turkey)
- Berghof Foundation Operations GmbH, Berlin (Germany)

- Yerevan State University, Yerevan (Armenia).

Following its evaluation REEES was informed that despite very good marks the project would not obtain funding due to the overall shortage of funds.

3.4.3 Application for European Parliament tender to provide foreign policy expertise

REEES together with the Centre for Southeast European Studies of the University of Graz in May 2013 applied for a tender of the Directorate-General for External Policies of the European Parliament to provide the EP with foreign policy expertise on EU enlargement, European Neighbourhood Policy, Russia and Central Asia. The consortium next to a number of independent experts comprised the following institutions:

- European Policy Centre, Brussels (lead)
- Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)
- University of Birmingham

At the time of writing, no tender result has been communicated.

3.4.4 Re-submission of CALPEX as a COST application

On 27.9.2013 REEES submitted a re-designed CALPEX proposal in the framework of the **EU Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST)** programme. The new proposal meant that CALPEX was shifted from a training programme to a pure expert network of academic, private and third sector partners supporting inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral research dedicated to EU relations with Central Asia. It followed closely the EU Strategy for Central Asia priorities which include rule of law, water and environment, education and security. Strategic partners of this network were the regional platforms, recently established by the EU and to be implemented by consulting companies. In addition, the research network comprised leading academic research institutions in Europe as well as representatives of the third sector, including the most visible NGO currently monitoring the EU-CA strategy. This setting pursued the overall objective of strengthening the links between countries, sectors and disciplines, between research and policy and between academic and practice in order to increase the amount of policy-relevant research of high quality with respect to EU-CA relations.

For COST purposes, the following were the participants interested in the network:

1. Prof. Thomas Krüßmann, University of Graz, AT
2. Gianmatta Lobina, Altair Asesores Asl, ES
3. Prof. Mar Campins, Universitat de Barcelona, ES

4. Michael Parker, Landell Mills Ltd., UK
5. Jerry Hart, SGS, CH
6. Prof. Ingeborg Baldauf, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, DE
7. Magdalena Segre, Fundacion para las Relaciones y el Dialogo Exterior, ES
8. Lena Gayoso, GOPA Consulting GmbH, DE
9. Astrid Reisinger-Coracini, International Anti-Corruption Academy, AT
10. Merijn Hartog, Centre for European Security Studies, NL

3.5 Student and staff mobility

Intimately linked to the achievement of project goals are **delegation visits and the conclusion of memoranda of understanding**. In the time frame 2012-13 the following mobilities were noted:

- 11.9.2012 - Prof. Krüßmann met in Moscow with the Director of the Higher School of Jurisprudence, Dr. Dmitrii Kuznetsov, to discuss the creation of a joint postgraduate LL.M. Programme on international and comparative economic law in the relations between the EU and Russia. The Higher School of Jurisprudence is the professional school for law and business of the **National Research University / Higher School of Economics (NRU/HSE)**, one of the top 5 universities of the Russian Federation.
- 3./4.10.2012 - On the occasion of the opening of the LL. M. Programme "Master in South East European Law and European Integration" Dr. Dmitrii Kuznetsov and Dr. Darya Chernyaeva of the **NRU/HSE** visited the Law Faculty of the University of Graz. The aim was not only the deepening of the cooperation with REEES but also the development of a joint LL.M. programme on the legal bases of business relations between the EU and Russia.
- 3.12.2012 – Prof. Krüßmann and Alsu Garaeva participated in the ceremony of renewing the agreement between the Styrian Government and **Vologda Region** of the Russian Federation. This agreement operated since 2004 and is aimed at the development of economic and cultural ties.
- 13.2.2013 – Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Graz and **Shota Rustaveli State University** in Batumi (Georgia) to prepare for the EULISC summer school.
- 6.5.2013 - Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Graz and the **Centre for European Studies at Yerevan State University** to enable co-operation and mobility.
- 3.-6.6.2013 - Visit of Prof. Dr. Dmitriy Smirnov, Director of the Law Institute, and Lecturer in law Dr. Viktoria Savina of **North-Caucasus Federal University** in Stavropol (Russia). During various meetings, possibilities for the development of mutual cooperation were discussed, particularly in the field of EU studies and Caucasus-related research activities. At the final meeting with Dean Prof. Joseph Marko and Vice Dean Prof. Stefan Storr, both sides ex-

pressed the aspiration that this visit will promote cooperation between the University of Graz and the NCFU.

- 30.7.2013 - Signing of a co-operation agreement between the University of Graz and **NRU / HSE** to enable implementation of the Joint Degree Programme “Business Law and Economic Co-operation between the EU and Russia”.
- 27.8.2013 - REEES and the **Research Center for Eurasian Studies of Transformational Processes, Constitutionality and Legal Culture (FAES)** at the Department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture of the University of Vienna were joining forces in research and teaching concerning the Russian legal system. They also agreed to jointly organize guest lecturers and visits, thus finding synergies with teaching and lecturing possibilities both in Vienna and in Graz.

To the extent that representatives of the University of Graz / REEES were involved in such mobilities, opportunities were also used for **teaching and the exchange of experiences**.



10.-13.2.2013 - Cooperation visit to Georgia by Prof. Krüßmann, Prof. Hubert Isak and Benedikt Harzl; meeting with the Rector of Tbilisi State University, the head of the Committee on European Integration of the Georgian Parliament, Mr. Viktor Dolidze, as well with the State Minister for Re-Integration, Mr. Paata Zakareishvili. Talks were also held at Shota Rustaveli State University and a Memorandum of Understanding signed in preparation of EU-LISC.



22.-27.9.2013 - Prof. Krüßmann, Elizaveta Samoilova and Benedikt Harzl visited the Law Institute of North-Caucasus Federal University (SKFU) Stavropol' for lectures and talks in preparation of the winter school "EU Law in the North Caucasus" (EULINC).

Another important aspect of student and staff mobility was the increase of the University of Graz' involvement in **Erasmus Mundus** student and staff exchange programmes. REEES offered its support to the Office of International Relations not only in the existing programmes IANUS and ALRAKIS. It also encouraged the University in joining consortia related to Central Asia such as Euro-Asian CEA by complementary "targeted calls" at selected universities. As a result of these efforts first students arrived in the winter term 2013/14, the first staff exchange with KIMEP University in Almaty (Kazakhstan) will take place in the summer term of 2014.

3.6 Participation of REEES staff in meetings and conferences

Due to the importance of keeping in contact with a variety of stakeholders and developing common agendas for research, there is a host of meetings that REEES staff attended. Most of these meetings were in one way or the other connected to the research priorities of REEES.

- 28./29.10.2012 - REEES organized and hosted a two-day **workshop** on the subject of "**Democracy and Security in the Caucasus**". Outstanding experts from the OSCE Research Centre of Hamburg, the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI), the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) as well as other leading scholars from Universities and think tanks from Europe and the South Caucasus region came together to elaborate a joint project proposal in which REEES is going to take the academic lead. This workshop was held to prepare for the A-DIALOGUE application mentioned above.
- On 9.11.2012 -Prof. Krüßmann presented a paper "University Co-operation as a Catalyst for Economic Development" at the **Black Sea Conference** of the Styrian Government in Graz. This participation helped to deepen the co-operation with the Styrian Government and encouraged it to provide financial support for EULISC 2013.
- 28.3.2013 - Participation of REEES staff in the conference "**Leadership Challenges of the 21st Century: The Prevention of Violence against Women and Femicide**" at the Vienna International Centre.

- 1./2.5.2013 - Participation of Benedikt Harzl (REEES) and Lorin-Johannes Wagner (Institute for European Law) in a workshop **“Establishment of a Structured Ph.D. Programme in European Studies”** at Tbilisi State University (Georgia) organized by Tbilisi State University. In their presentation both provided an overview over doctoral studies at the Law Faculty of the University of Graz.
- 19./20.9.2013 - Participation of Zurab Simonishvili (REEES) in the conference of the Russian-German Legal Institute **“Relations between the EU and Russia – Legal Dimensions and Current Developments”** at the University of Passau (Germany). The participation of Mr. Simonishvili foreshadowed REEES’ interest in becoming a member of the German-Russian Legal Institute in the near future.

3.7 Outreach / “Science to public”

While the activities of REEES during the year 2012-13 had not been integrated into the regular teaching process of the University of Graz, it was very important to offer “science to public” events to attract students’ attention as well as a wider visibility for the geographical region represented by REEES. The following events were held:

- 9.2.2013 - Public Lecture of Tatyana **Shukova**, Lecturer at the University of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation, on the role of special forces in fighting crime in Russia.
- 6.3.2013 - Public Lecture of Nino **Lapiashvili**, Head of the Centre for European Studies at Tbilisi State University, Georgia, on the case of Georgia in the European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership.
- 4.6.2013 - Country Talk Afghanistan with H.E. Ayoob M. **Erfani**, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Austria and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna.
- 12.6.2013 Co-organization of a panel discussion on the documentary “Lost Lives. Women in the Soviet Gulag” with Dr. Anita **Lackenberger**. The shooting of this documentary was supported by REEES through Meerim Aidarova who helped as a translator and organizer in Kazakhstan. The documentary was also shown on TV (ORF 2) on 27.8.2013.

4. MID-TERM WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 Winter School EULINC

EULISC 2013 attracted much attention by the North Caucasus Federal University. As a result of the ensuing talks it was decided to add another summer school-type of activity to the programme of REEES: the winter school “EU Law in the North Caucasus” (EULINC).

The teaching at EULINC will provide fundamental knowledge of the history and the legal aspects of European Integration, European foreign policy and the dimension of EU-Russia relations. In a complementary way, lectures will also focus on Russian foreign policy and an analysis of Russian strategies of supranational cooperation with the successor states of the Soviet Union. Apart from these basic lectures, common European and Russian challenges such as religious diversity, migration and conflict management will be discussed as well as specific modules. The following lectures are planned:

Introductory Modules:

- Introduction to European law and European integration
- EU-Russia relations
- Russian foreign policy
- Eurasian integration processes

Specific Modules:

- Islam and the accommodation of religious diversity in Russia
- Effects of labour migration
- EU Conflict Management in the FSU.

EULINC is scheduled to be held for the first time in February 2014 at the Pyatigorsk Law Faculty which is part of the Legal Institute of North Caucasus Federal University.

4.2. INSPIRE

To take account of the increasing importance of Islam and the effects of Islamization in the region, a new project line was added to the already existing programmes: the study of Islamic law and its effects on societies at large.

In fact, the influence of Islam is of growing importance for the development of the post-Soviet space. This is true first of all for Russia which always comprised developed Islamic communities (esp. in Tatarstan); in addition the perennial conflicts of the North Caucasus, in particular the forceful subjugation

tion of Chechnya, led to a resurgence of Islam. This is also true for Central Asia which is characterized by a marked re-Islamization (Kazakhstan being the exception). This tendency is very often seen as threatening because it goes along with the ISAF troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, scheduled for the year 2014. The developments in both regions submerge through labour migration which saw millions of citizens of the Central Asian Republics seek work in Russia.

INSPIRE will be a framework for critically analyzing the abovementioned processes. Although it is impossible to study Islamic law without a proper understanding of Islam itself, there is ample scope for non-specialist lawyers to study the *sharia* from a historical and comparative legal perspective and thus to come to a deeper understanding of the development processes in the post-Soviet space.

Research will be focused, among others, on the following topics:

- The secular state, state-law relations of the Russian Orthodox Church, the legal position of the muftiates and the policies flowing from this setup, esp. the campaigning for a "social Islam";
- *sharia* and the legal order;
- the opening of a "window" for Islamic banking and insurances;
- re-Islamization in Central Asia and the resurgence of customary law (*adat*);
- the effects of re-Islamization on the legal and social position of women (cf. EMPOWER);
- commonalities and differences in the development of Islam in the regions (Tatarstan, Crimea, Northern Caucasus) and in the countries of Central Asia legal aspects of combatting Islamist extremism.

5. ANNEXES

5.1 Founding declaration

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 Council¹ 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,

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

¹ [S/PRST/2010/4 of 24 February 2010.](#)

Emphasising finally the role of international and national educational and training institutions for national and international co-operation with the objective to optimise and co-ordinate 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 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 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

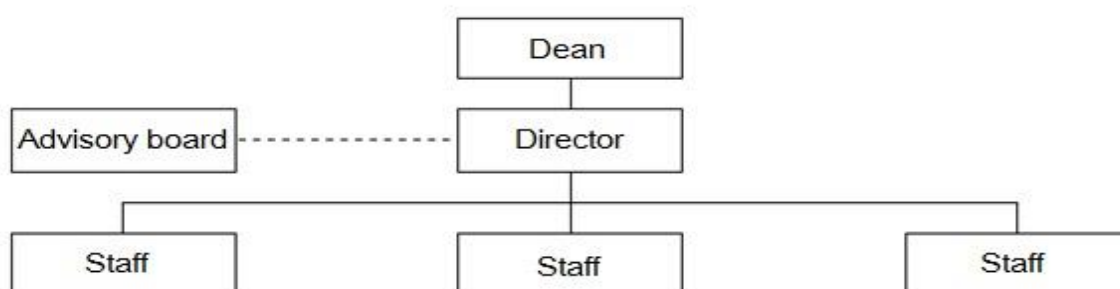
Home Institute remain unaffected has to be included). Details on the duties and responsibilities at REEES will be agreed upon by the REEES Director and the employee.

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.

5.2. 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 inter-cultural 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.