



**ESIL Interest Group**  
**“The European and International Rule of Law”**  
**Annual report 2021**

Despite the exceptional situation of the worldwide pandemic continuing, the conveners of the interest group can report with great pleasure that the IG has commenced its activities in 2021, in particular through the successful IG Kick-off meeting as a pre-conference event to the 2021 ESIL Annual Conference. Planning and negotiations are under way for future events, some of which may occur until the end of 2021.

**Kick-off meeting**

On 8 September, the ESIL IG on the European and International Rule of Law held its inaugural kick-off meeting as a virtual event on the occasion of the 2021 ESIL Annual Conference. Professor Werner Schroeder (University of Innsbruck) and Dr. Joelle Grogan (Middlesex University London) gave input presentations on the rule of law in the European Union and on challenges posed to the rule of law by the COVID19 pandemic, followed by an in-depth discussion with the audience. In the final section of the meeting, members were invited to actively engage in discussing the IG's future activities and to contribute proposals and ideas. The meeting was well attended, with number of participants reaching 35, and excellent discussion developed after the initial presentations among both IG members and those not yet involved with the IG and ESIL.

In a dedicated section of our IG kick-off meeting, IG members discussed future IG activities. In particular, a number of tentative projects were proposed and discussed, involving potential organization of events with external partners on a range of rule of law-related issues, including EU withdrawal and accession, kleptocracy and corruption, and arbitration and rule of law.

Members also expressed an interest in developing IG activities on further topics/fields, including:

- rule of law and international organizations
- the rule of law dimensions of international investment law
- rule of law issues within and in the context of EU accession

Every IG member was warmly invited to contact the Coordinating Committee at any time with ideas and initiatives for future IG activities, including research topics of interest, formats (e.g. talks, workshops, conferences...), collaborations with other groups/entities or an interest in organizing activities.

**Remaining activities for 2021**

There is a possibility that some of the events mentioned above might be organized before the end of 2021. In any case, they would be subject to regular procedure and approval by the ESIL board, and advertised in the usual way. In case they do occur, these will be covered and discussed in the 2022 Annual Report.