



## ESIL Interest Group on International Health Law Annual Report 2022-2023

Over the last year the ESIL Interest Group on International Health Law (IGIHL) continued its mission of promoting and developing the academic debate and legal scholarship on topical legal issues related to the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemics, the interactions between global health and human rights, the improvement of legal preparedness for better global health security, and the evolution of global health law, with a focus on the ongoing law-making processes concerning the revision of the WHO International Health Regulations (2005) and the negotiation of a global treaty on pandemics.

The IGIHL was also active in the organisation of events within the framework of the ESIL Annual Conference “*Is International Law Fair? – Le droit international est-il juste?*”, which was hosted by the University Aix-Marseille in Aix-en-Provence (France) from 30 August to 1 September 2023.

On 31 August the IGIHL Conveners hosted a pre-conference workshop entitled *Equity in Pandemic Response after Covid-19: Fairness Through International Health Law and Beyond*, which was organized in a hybrid format. After a call for papers was disseminated, the Coordinating Committee received fourteen submissions from both early career scholars and university professors, and six were selected for presentation at the workshop. The presentations were divided into three panels (*Equity and Fairness in Global Health Security; Achieving Equity: Global and Regional Mechanisms; Equity and Fairness: Lessons from Other Regimes*), chaired by the Members of the Committee who were attending the conference in person (Dr. Pedro A. Villarreal, Prof. Stéphanie Dagron and Prof. Stefania Negri). Prof. Gian Luca Burci

participated remotely and gave an opening speech on the current developments in International Health Law also illustrating the various initiatives, academic networks and groups which contribute to the advancement of the field. The event included participants from Israel, France, Italy, Greece and the United States of America. An added value to the discussion was represented by the participation as speakers of two diplomats from the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Colombia to Geneva, respectively, who are personally involved in the negotiations of the pandemic treaty at the WHO. The event was largely attended and the discussion at the end of each session was intense and stimulating.

On 1 September the IGHIL Conveners participated in Agora 12 “Fairness and Unfairness in International Health Law: Challenges and Perspectives”. Prof. Stefania Negri was invited by the Conference organisers to chair the Agora, while Dr. Pedro A. Villarreal and Prof. Stéphanie Dagon were invited as speakers as a result of the selection of the fourteen abstracts proposed in response to the call for abstracts launched by ESIL. The third selected speaker was a young post-doc scholar from Italy, Dr. Ludovica Di Lullo. The Agora was successful and the three presentations prompted a lively reaction from the audience, with a large number of questions and comments that were hardly managed within the timeframe available. The papers presented at the Agora will be published in the coming months.

For the future, the IGIHL will continue stimulating the debate on the challenges and perspectives of International Health Law and organising academic or other events. In this respect, the IGHIL will be an important partner in the activities carried out in the framework of the Jean Monnet Actions financed by the European Union and awarded to prof. Stefania Negri, namely the Jean Monnet Chair “One Health: Global and EU Perspectives” and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “New Visions of the European Union’s Role in Global Health”, which will run for the coming three academic years 2023-2026.