



ESIL Interest Group
“The European and International Rule of Law”
Annual report 2023

In the past 12 months, the ESIL IG on the European and International Rule of Law focused on organizing a pre-conference. Moreover, elections for the Coordinating Committee were held in late 2023.

Side Event at the 2023 ESIL Annual Conference in Aix-en-Provence

On 31 August 2023, the IG held, on the occasion of the ESIL Annual Conference in Aix-en-Provence, a pre-conference workshop on the topic of ‘Elections and the International Rule of Law’. The workshop took place as an on site-only event. As was done at previous events, the conveners decided to opt for few, selected presentations in order to leave enough time for discussions and for networking. Accordingly, four papers were selected from responses to a call for papers issued in spring 2023: ‘An international law of elections?’ (Caspar Weitz - Leuphana University Lueneburg), ‘Beyond the Reach of the People? Admissibility Requirements for Citizens Initiatives and the (International) Rule of Law’ (Daniel Moeckli - University of Zurich), ‘Council of Europe Standards on E-voting - Empowering the International Rule of Law in the Digital Democracy’ (Vasilije Marković - Institute of Comparative Law, Belgrade) and ‘An Impossible Dream: Using the Standard of Free and Fair Elections for Government Recognition’ (Maria Gudzenko - Aix-Marseille University). The presentations were followed by engaged discussions with the audience, in which the issues raised in the presentations were pursued further. Despite being on-site only side event, there was an encouraging turnout, with both familiar and new colleagues attending and engaging in the discussions.

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.

2023 Elections for the Coordinating Committee

In November 2023, the IG held elections for two positions for its Coordinating Committee. Henner Gött has stepped down as one of the original founding conveners to focus on pressing work obligations, and the decision was made to open up the elections for two additional members to help with the future workload.

Between four candidates, IG members chose Denise Wohlwend and Paolo Farah as new IG co-conveners, and the conveners wish them a warm welcome.

On behalf of the IG, the conveners would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Henner for his work, commitment, and engagement as a co-convener in the IG's first three years.