

20<sup>th</sup> **esil** **sedi** EUROPEAN  
ANNIVERSARY SOCIETY OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
LAW

# ESIL 20+10 A DECADE OF OPPORTUNITY

**Report of  
the Strategic  
Consultative  
Panel prepared  
for the Board of  
the European  
Society of  
International  
Law**

December 2024

*Cathedral of Santa  
Maria del Fiore,  
Florence, Italy*

# CONTRIBUTORS TO THE REPORT

## Members

### **Laurence Boisson de Chazournes**

Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva; ESIL Board Member (2008-2016); ESIL President (2012-2014); ESIL Lifetime Member

### **Jutta Brunnée**

Dean, University Professor and James Marshall Tory Dean's Chair at the University of Toronto; ESIL Board Member (2010-2014)

### **Gleider Hernández**

Professor of Public International Law at KU Leuven; ESIL President (2023-2025); ESIL Secretary-General (2021-2023); ESIL Lifetime Member

### **Lauri Mälksoo**

Professor of International Law at the University of Tartu; ESIL Board Member (2008-2016); Local Organiser of Research Fora in Tallinn 2011 and Tartu 2023

### **Matina Papadaki**

Lecturer in International Law, University of Glasgow; Researcher at the Academy of Athens; Researcher at AthensPIL; ESIL Early-Career Researchers Network Representative

### **Anne Peters**

Director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law; Board Member (2004-2012); ESIL President (2010-2012); ESIL Lifetime Member

## SCP Co-Chairs

### **Neha Jain**

Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and Deputy Director and Faculty Fellow, Northwestern University Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; ESIL Board Member (2019-2024); ESIL Vice-President (2022-2024)

### **Christian J. Tams**

Professor of International Law at the University of Glasgow and at Sorbonne Law School in Paris; ESIL Vice-President (2024-2025)

## Advisers and Assistants

### **Joyce Davies**

Coordinator, Academy of European Law; European University Institute

### **Anna Di Biase**

Former ESIL Project Coordinator, Academy of European Law; European University Institute

### **Antoine De Spiegeleir**

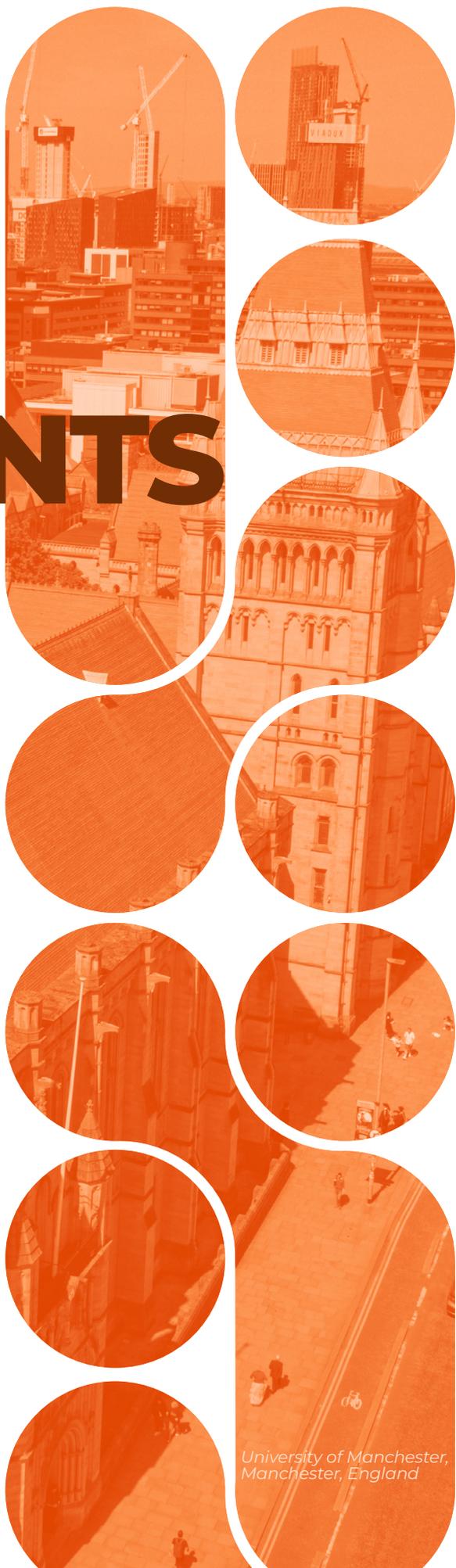
Research Assistant; European University Institute

### **Chloe Young**

Research Assistant; University of Tartu

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ESIL at 20</b> .....	3
<b>Innovating for the Future</b> .....	4
<b>ESIL 365: An Agenda for Action</b> .....	6
<b>Annexes</b> .....	14



# ESIL AT 20

The European Society of International Law was launched in Florence in May 2004 to bring together an **“authentically diverse European network of international lawyers”** who would transform debates about **“international legal issues of concern to Europe”**.

The Society was born out of the conviction that this intellectual mission required transcending cultural and linguistic barriers amongst European international lawyers, that active participation by scholars at different stages of their professional careers was a prerequisite for its accomplishment, and that the strongest Society was a collaborative Society that worked together with like-minded institutions.

As the Society enters its third decade, it has not only met but exceeded the central ambition of its founders, namely to **“genuinely add value to what is already on offer in the field of international law”**.

ESIL at 20 is a hub of diverse activities and an intellectual home to hundreds of international lawyers based in Europe and beyond. What is more, the Society has avoided institutional petrification: it remains vibrant, inclusive, and open to innovation.

If ESIL’s first two decades have been an exercise in development, experimentation, and adaptation, then this brings with it a commitment to continuous reform. To this end, the Board established a Strategic Consultative Panel in 2023 to initiate a reflection on the Society’s priorities as it marks its twentieth anniversary. The Panel has explored options for ESIL’s continued growth and development that would enable the Society to consolidate its achievements and continue to expand its reach and impact during the third decade of its existence. This Report sets out ten concrete proposals that would assist ESIL in reaching those goals. ■

# INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

and Research Fora. The venues for these events are chosen bearing in mind a commitment to reflecting and promoting the Society's diverse membership in different parts of Europe, as well as its responsibility to limit the carbon impact of conference-related travel (see Annex I). An enormous amount of effort, by the Board and local hosts, goes into their planning and organisation, and both are fixtures in the academic calendar.

The signature events are supplemented by a series of activities, including a wide range of publications, workshops, and events organised jointly with partners or sponsored by ESIL on an intermittent basis (see Annex II). These initiatives – which are at times pursued with sister societies, universities, and non-academic international law institutions, and often

The Panel's recommendations are informed by ongoing discussions within the Society and its leadership on the Society's identity and mandate, the experience of other institutions engaged in international law scholarship and practice, and the Panel's perception of ESIL's trajectory since 2004. They also reflect the Society's – currently healthy – financial status (see Annex V) and capacity for innovation in its third decade.

The ten proposals are not intended to catalogue exhaustively ESIL's activities during its third decade. Rather, the Panel has sought to highlight the Society's distinctive features and identify the most promising areas for the Society to take effective action to achieve significant progress. These relate to the Society's intellectual ambitions, the activities and events that comprise its lifeblood, and the nature of its membership.

Since 2004, ESIL has succeeded in establishing two signature events to facilitate intellectual exchange and networks between international lawyers in Europe and beyond: Annual Conferences



Gate of Dawn,  
Vilnius, Lithuania

organised as hybrid or online events – add breadth and diversity to ESIL’s programming. Complementing these efforts are the activities of currently twenty-one ESIL Interest Groups (see Annex III), each with its own dedicated programme of events, and the work of the ESIL’s Early-Career Network. These provide space for members to build community, share their work, and discuss career development. By enabling these events, ESIL provides a platform for initiatives proposed by its members, including those at an early stage of their careers, and those who may not easily have access to other learned societies and associations active in the field of international law. In contrast to the signature events, these activities are largely dependent on the entrepreneurship and energy of individual ESIL members and are organised with relatively limited support structures.

The Society’s championing of individual initiative is commendable and worthy of preservation. However, it risks “ad-hocism” in the Society’s overall programming, combined with a disproportionate concentration of the Society’s efforts on the two signature events that a significant percentage of its membership may not always be able to attend. The Panel considers that this imbalance is partly due to the fact that while ESIL has witnessed

an impressive increase in both activity and participation, its organisational structure has remained relatively slim. Strengthening ESIL’s structures to create greater capacity for strategic reflection and support for key projects would enable the Society to achieve a better balance between the different demands on the Society’s resources and cater more effectively to the diverse needs of its membership.

This does not mean that the Society should stop investing in its two signature events. On the contrary, reinforcing structure will free up time and energy for the Society to innovate in relation to its signature events. ESIL could, for instance, take steps to increase the presence of senior international lawyers in the Annual Conference, not only to give the Conference greater visibility and intellectual heft, but also to increase opportunities for inter-generational conversations and mentorship. Moreover, these conversations should not be confined to the academic community but should encompass the entirety of the international legal profession and include topics on which there would be much to be gained from dialogue between academics and practitioners at various stages of their careers. They should also extend to issues related to professional and skills development that would be of interest to both junior and mid-career ESIL members, especially those who come from legal systems where such programming is not commonplace. In addition, efforts should be made to ensure that the intellectual energy and creativity unleashed by the Annual Conference is not dissipated once the Conference is over, but that it forms the basis for continuing exchange and debate on international legal issues led by the Society’s members.



*Palais De Justice,  
Aix en Provence, France*

**“The Panel’s recommendations are informed by ongoing discussions within the Society and its leadership.”**

An added benefit of re-orienting the Society’s posture towards its programming would be to open up the space for the Society to position itself more firmly as not only a convenor of debates but equally an intellectual agenda-setter. Indeed, forging a European approach to international law was one of the main drivers for ESIL’s establishment. Twenty years on, however, the European-ness of the Society remains ‘elusive’, as does its role in contributing to the European tradition in international law. ESIL is not associated with a particular approach to, or school of, international law, but is pluralistic. This is a laudable approach for a Society that brings together large numbers of international lawyers with diverse interests and methodological perspectives on international law. At the same time, it need not prevent ESIL from playing a more prominent role in setting the agenda of international legal scholarship and from seeking responses to fundamental questions. Exercising intellectual leadership would not compromise diversity but complement it by identifying themes for research and by carving out formats for ‘deep breath reflections’ on the state of international law. It would also help showcase the depth and breadth of international law expertise possessed by ESIL members, both established scholars and those who will form the next generation.

Yet another way in which ESIL could enhance its intellectual footprint is by exploring new forms of collaboration with like-minded institutions. A few initiatives, largely driven by individual ESIL Board members, have occasionally been proposed as a way to forge closer connections with national and regional international law societies. These have not, however, led to any deeper or long-term co-operation. Similarly, joint events with international institutions based in Europe (e.g., the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights) have not been pursued systematically. According to the Panel, this represents a missed opportunity for ESIL to benefit from its location in Europe as one of the central sites for the study and application of international law. Embedding itself more fully within the landscape of international law institutions based in Europe would enable the Society and its membership to benefit from and contribute to the practice of international law. In addition, establishing closer links with national learned societies would provide greater exposure to international law practice and scholarship at the domestic level and establish ESIL as an interlocutor in these conversations.

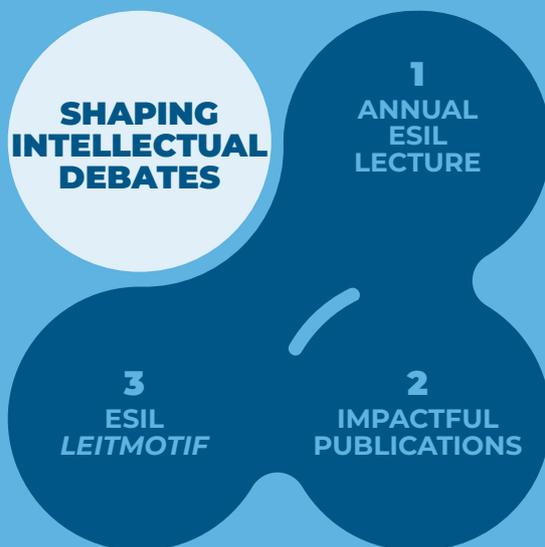
The Panel’s focus on enhancing ESIL’s capacity to provide intellectual leadership, forge partnerships and networks, and create opportunities for debate and professional development is guided by the fundamental goal of better serving the Society’s membership. ESIL’s driving force is its relatively large and vibrant body of members, including a highly active cohort of early-career international law scholars. However, the membership is geographically skewed and ESIL has faced challenges in attracting and retaining senior academics and international law practitioners (see Annex IV). The Panel’s proposals are geared to enabling the Society to diversify and expand its membership through attracting a broader range of scholars as well as legal practitioners active in government, international organisations, civil society, and law firms across Europe. ■

# ESIL 365 AN AGENDA FOR ACTION



The Panel recommends concrete action in the form of ten proposals for the consideration of the Board. These proposals are grouped under three themes: shaping debates, building partnerships, and strengthening structures. Together, these proposals chart an ambitious pathway for innovation, strategic coordination, and impact to transform ESIL into a Society for the whole year (“ESIL 365”) and secure its continued success and growth in its third decade and beyond. ■

## Shaping Intellectual Debates



As a learned society, ESIL aims to foster and shape debates on fundamental international law issues in Europe and abroad. In pursuing this aim, the Society has the competitive advantage of being based in Europe, which is home to a large number of key universities, organisations, courts, and policy-making bodies engaged in the research, application, and development of international law.

ESIL has already carved out a distinctive space in this landscape as the go-to academic forum for international lawyers from all over Europe and beyond to convene for intellectual exchange and professional networking. It is well placed to build on these foundations and launch new initiatives to maximise the Society’s intellectual impact during the third decade of its existence. ■

## 1. Annual ESIL Lecture

The Panel recommends the establishment of an Annual ESIL Lecture as a prestigious forum promoting pivotal contributions to intellectual debate. The Annual Lecture, preferably to be given during ESIL's Annual Conference, will provide a distinguished international lawyer with the opportunity to offer their vision of international law, emphasising either a particular challenge to, or a novel perspective on the state of, international law. As an original reflection presented in a high-profile forum, the Annual ESIL Lecture will become a highlight in the ESIL calendar, connecting ESIL members across different stages

of their professional careers, and a focal point for debate about international law, within and outside the Society.

The selection of ESIL Annual Lecturers will enable the Society to reflect on key themes of international law that it wants to spotlight. It will also enable the Society to forge long-term relationships with eminent international lawyers. Recorded for posterity, Annual ESIL Lectures will add to the repository of international law classics, illustrating ESIL's capacity to shape intellectual debate.

## 2. Impactful Publications

As a learned society, ESIL has actively pursued publication activities and steadily expanded its portfolio of publication formats. While the Society does not publish its own academic journal, it has long enjoyed a **“mutually supportive”** relationship with the European Journal of International Law (EJIL). The editors played an instrumental role in the Society's founding and the close collaboration between ESIL and EJIL continues to this day.

In addition, ESIL currently manages different online publications series (ESIL Reflections, ESIL Papers, ESIL Newsletter), a book series and an online lecture series. However, the schedule and pace of publications have not always been consistent, especially for publications that require significant time and investment.

The Panel recommends that ESIL should establish a Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of its publication portfolio. While the ESIL Board has undertaken various steps to rethink and reform individual publications under the leadership of individual Board members, an overall evaluation of the different publications and how they relate to each other would help in identifying the aims and audiences of the respective formats. This assessment should be guided by the evolving international law publication landscape which has undergone significant changes since ESIL was established. The aim should be to focus the limited resources that the Society has at its disposal towards a small number of high-quality, impactful publication formats that allow ESIL to showcase its strengths.

## 3. ESIL *Leitmotif*

The Panel proposes the launch of an annual ESIL *Leitmotif* to galvanise research and programming around a significant international law topic during a particular year. The annual ESIL *Leitmotif* would enable the Society to exercise convening and agenda-setting power and enhance the coherence of its activities. The *Leitmotif* would serve to initiate or amplify debates in an area of the Society's choosing and to highlight pressing issues and emerging trends in international law that are of interest to, and showcase the expertise of, a broad section of its membership. This process would help connect ESIL members from different sub-fields who are invested in working on a particular *Leitmotif* and stimulate identification of and

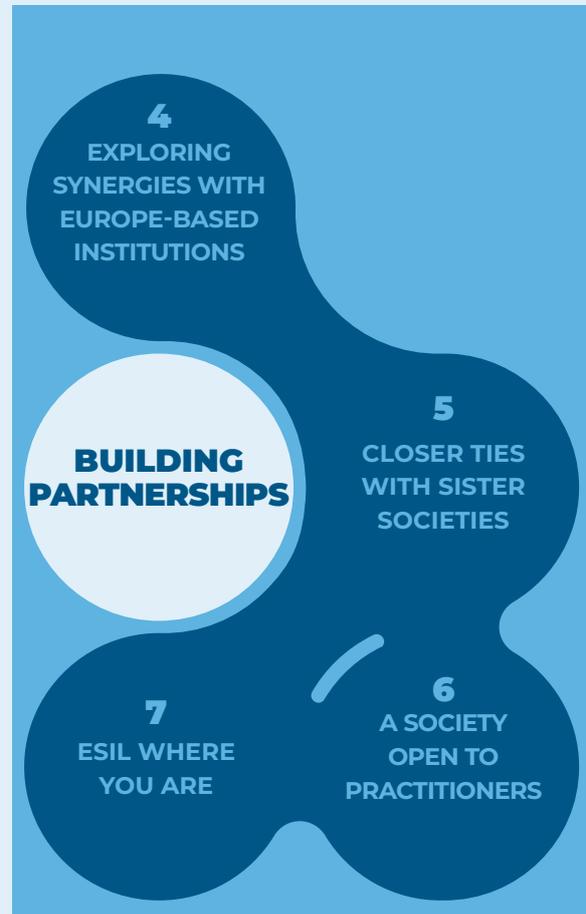
outreach towards partner institutions, potentially resulting in longer-term collaboration. Above all, themed activities maintained throughout the course of a year would maximise the Society's presence year-round and deepen ESIL's impact.

To encourage robust engagement with the topic, the Society should commit to making available modest sums towards research and events relating to the ESIL *Leitmotif*. It should also create space for *Leitmotif* events in the ESIL calendar through integrating *Leitmotif*-related programming in existing ESIL signature events as well as experimenting with new formats and ideas to spotlight the topic.

# Building Partnerships

ESIL has been a pan-European outward-looking Society from its inception. Its founders signalled the importance of working collaboratively with existing learned societies and associations across Europe.

They also sought to introduce distinctive elements in the new Society's composition and programming, emphasising the participation of practitioners and members of international courts in ESIL's early activities. Successive generations of the Society's leadership and members have followed in these footsteps: many ESIL members are also active members of Sister Societies of international law; ESIL has co-sponsored events with Europe-based international courts; and [ESIL publications](#) interrogate the relationship between academic and professional practices in international law. However, thus far, these joint activities have not resulted in ongoing forms of collaboration. ESIL's third decade presents an opportunity to translate the experience of two decades of ad-hoc cooperation to sustained institutional partnerships with other actors. ■



## 4. Exploring Synergies with Europe-based Institutions

ESIL's international law neighbours include international and regional courts, important members of the United Nations family, a wide range of European Union actors, and other inter-governmental as well as non-governmental organisations. The Panel recommends that ESIL invest in building closer connections with such institutions, initiating collaborative projects, and seeking formal partnerships. This would enhance the Society's profile within the international law community and help position ESIL as a hub for exchanging ideas and expertise on international legal issues relevant today. It would also widen the circle of international lawyers involved in the Society's activities.

Given the number and diversity of Europe-based institutions active in the field of international law, ESIL will have to be selective in choosing its

partners and will need to adopt an incremental approach. To begin with, ESIL should revive and reinforce its relationships with institutions with which the Society has already collaborated, e.g., through the resumption of co-sponsored events with the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. These activities should form the template for an expanded range of collaborations with Europe-based institutions beyond courts. The choice of institutions should be informed by the potential for the partnership to yield benefits for ESIL's members, for instance, through fellowships for ESIL members or enabling ESIL members to contribute to the work of these institutions through expert advice. To this end, ESIL should survey its membership to identify preferred institutional partners and schemes for collaboration.

## 5. Closer Ties with Sister Societies

ESIL was conceived as a transnational complement to learned societies existing at the national level and to national chapters of international associations, with whom it has maintained a friendly co-existence since 2004. As ESIL enters its third decade, the Panel proposes that ESIL move from co-existence to closer cooperation. Closer ties with Sister Societies, whether national or regional will enable ESIL to share resources, expertise, and best practices, thereby amplifying its impact and enriching the debate about international law. It will also provide momentum for ESIL to engage more actively with prominent senior and mid-career international lawyers in Sister Societies and

introduce potential new members to ESIL. The Panel considers that ESIL events provide promising opportunities for closer cooperation with Sister Societies. In the first instance, ESIL could solicit involvement in its programmes from the national society of the host city of an ESIL Annual Conference or Research Forum. ESIL could also encourage co-sponsored events on themes of shared interest. Given the large number of potential interlocutors at the national level, the Panel recommends proceeding strategically and fostering ties with dynamic Sister Societies and with Societies in countries that are under-represented in ESIL's membership.

## 6. A Society Open to Practitioners

As a predominantly academic Society, ESIL has much to gain from and contribute to the work of international legal practitioners working in government, international institutions, civil society organisations, and law firms. The Panel considers that greater involvement of legal practitioners will not only diversify conversations within the Society but will also assist ESIL in reaching its statutory goals of **“promoting a greater awareness and understanding of international law not only amongst lawyers but within the general public”** and of **“contribut[ing] to the rule of law in international relations”**. The Society is well positioned to initiate incremental steps in this direction given the significant concentration of international legal practice in Europe and the active role already played by some of its members

in international legal practice and/or policy-making. However, ESIL does not systematically track the percentage of its membership that identifies as practitioners.

To open up the Society to practitioners of international law meaningfully, the Panel encourages ESIL to begin with a stock-taking by collecting data on the number of practitioners currently involved in the Society's work and identifying areas in which practitioners currently not active in the Society would envisage potential for collaboration. In parallel, ESIL will benefit from piloting concrete forms of collaboration with practitioners of international law, such as the involvement of legal practitioners in mentoring activities and exploration of practitioner panels at ESIL Annual Conferences.

## 7. ESIL Where You Are

ESIL is a consciously European International Law Society with a peripatetic existence. Though it is administratively anchored in Florence, the Society's leaders and membership hail from all parts of Europe and beyond, the Society champions geographic diversity in decisions on the location of its events, and it collaborates on issues of common interest with Sister Societies as well as with Europe-based courts. The Panel recommends that the Society strengthen its transnational presence by taking active steps to revitalise and amplify its relationships with local partner institutions, both academic and non-academic. A multi-pronged strategy is needed to achieve this goal. Firstly, the Society should tap into its existing leadership – namely Board members and Interest Group convenors – to develop programming

that expands and consolidates the Society's footprint in regions where it is less present. This programming can increase the voice and visibility of the Society's membership in those regions. Additionally, the Society might consider appointing ESIL Ambassadors to spearhead these efforts. Secondly, the Society should actively partner with local globally minded institutions including think-tanks, universities, courts, law firms, and NGOs, to organise events on both substantive issues and professional development opportunities. The Society's Annual Conferences and Research Fora provide a natural opportunity to catalyse such networks. Thirdly, the Society should establish an annual fund whereby the Society makes modest financial contributions towards supporting local in-person international law events.

## Strengthening Structures



From its inception, ESIL has operated with a relatively slim governance structure, in which decision-making is concentrated in the ESIL Board assisted by administrative support from a dedicated Secretariat. The significant growth and diversification of ESIL's activities over the course of the Society's first two decades has largely been achieved through the creativity and commitment of hundreds of ESIL members and volunteers. This commitment has resulted in the establishment of Interest Groups, which are a hub of ESIL activities today. As the Society has matured and expanded its mandate and activities, it has been proactive in identifying areas that call for additional policy and administrative support. Thus, over the past few years, the Society has taken steps to establish a range of formal and informal mechanisms to enable it to harness the skills and

expertise of a broader set of its members. These mechanisms include the Network and Co-ordinating Committee for early-career international lawyers, a Diversity Advisory Body, and a Greening Initiative, which all support and advise the Board in carrying out its mandate.

For the Society to continue pursuing bold new ideas, it is vital that it sustains its investment in strengthening supplemental mechanisms that will serve to implement effectively its vision for the third decade. Consolidating the current structures designed to reflect ESIL's commitment towards supporting early-career researchers seems paramount in this respect. An Advisory Council will preserve the Board's efficient operational structure while creating space for ongoing strategic reflection. Ad-hoc support in the form of an ESIL Assistants Scheme will allow the Board and Secretariat to effectively delegate tasks and focus on core governance issues. These mechanisms will also create additional opportunities for different segments of ESIL's membership to be more closely involved with the Society's functioning, resulting in an inclusive governance structure that cultivates fresh thinking and unorthodox approaches. ■

## 8. Greater Support for Early-Career Members

The involvement of early-career researchers in ESIL's activities is a distinctive and highly desirable feature of the Society. Since its establishment in 2004, ESIL has made significant efforts to **“foste[r] the involvement and representation of younger scholars”** through diverse measures ranging from financial support towards mentoring to the Early-Career Scholar Prize. During its third decade, ESIL should expand and consolidate these activities and mainstream support for its early-career members. To that extent, the Society should consolidate the existing Network and Co-ordinating Committee for early-career international lawyers, which can be integrated into the Society's central governance structures.

The Panel encourages ESIL to take additional steps towards nurturing the talent of future

generations of international lawyers by providing sustained support for early-career members and building bridges between them and more established ESIL members. The following concrete measures, to be implemented in collaboration with the Early-Career Network and Co-ordinating Committee, may enable ESIL to reach this goal: (a) the mainstreaming of mentorship opportunities throughout the work of the Society, which should be extended to facilitate contacts between early-career members and practitioners of international law; (b) the setting aside of an annual budget for the organisation of events specifically aimed at early-career members, such as workshops for doctoral researchers; and (c) the further reduction of membership fees for early-career members.

## 9. ESIL Assistants Scheme

The Society should establish an ESIL Assistants Scheme to provide early-career international legal professionals with the opportunity to participate in and aid the Society's research, policy, event planning, and outreach activities.

ESIL Assistants will be remunerated and work directly with the ESIL Secretariat and members of the ESIL Board on a range of initiatives spearheaded by the Society. Their tasks can include providing research and editorial support, designing and implementing programmes to enhance the Society's visibility, and assisting with the organisation of ESIL events.

The Assistants will complement ESIL's commitment to mentorship and professional development by enabling early-career international lawyers to gain first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of the Society, including its management and administration. Assistants will be encouraged to identify ways in which the ESIL Assistants Scheme may complement and support their broader career objectives and aspirations. They will also take advantage of a range of ESIL and ESIL-supported international law activities and events. Involvement in the ESIL Assistants Scheme may provide a springboard for future leadership opportunities in international law, including with the Society.

## 10. ESIL Advisory Council

The Society's constitutive documents envisage the ESIL Board as the backbone of the Society's governance structure. To this end, these documents give the Board flexibility to co-opt members with responsibility for specific tasks and entrust some of its functions to Committees established under its authority. The creation of an ESIL Advisory Council can bolster and extend the Board's previous initiatives to diversify its organisational structure through the establishment of the Early-Career Network Co-ordinating Committee and the Diversity Advisory Body.

The Advisory Council will be drawn from long-standing members of the Society and individuals

who have made exceptional contributions to the study and practice of international law. This group will provide the Board with ongoing strategic reflection and advice to develop ESIL's long-term priorities and goal. Members of the Advisory Council will be expected to help expand and foster relationships between the Society and the wider community of international lawyers by promoting the Society to potential members, providing access to networks in academia and practice, amplifying the Society's presence in diverse international fora, and facilitating high-profile contacts. The Board may also request individual members of the Advisory Council to provide leadership with respect to specific portfolios and strategic initiatives.

# ANNEXES

**ANNEX I: OVERVIEW OF ESIL  
ANNUAL CONFERENCES &  
RESEARCH FORA** ..... 15

**ANNEX II: ESIL  
PUBLICATIONS** ..... 17

**ANNEX III: ESIL INTEREST  
GROUPS' EVENTS AND  
OTHER ACTIVITIES** ..... 19

**ANNEX IV: ESIL  
MEMBERSHIP** ..... 20

**ANNEX V: ESIL FINANCES** ... 21

# ANNEX I: Overview of ESIL Annual Conferences and Research Fora

ESIL initially held Biennial Conferences and Biennial Research Fora. From 2014 onwards, it has moved to the current approach of Annual Conferences and Research Fora.

## Annual Conferences

**2025** 20th ESIL Annual Conference on  
**“Reconstructing International Law”**  
*Berlin, 11-13 September 2025 (forthcoming)*

**2024** 19th ESIL Annual Conference on  
**“Technological Change and International Law”**  
*Vilnius, 5-6 September 2024*

**2023** 18th ESIL Annual Conference on  
**“Is International Law Fair?”**  
*Aix-en-Provence, 31 August-2 September 2023*

**2022** 17th ESIL Annual Conference on  
**“In/Ex-clusiveness of International Law”**  
*Utrecht, 1-3 September 2022*

**2021** 16th ESIL Annual Conference on **“Changes in  
International Lawmaking – Actors, Processes,  
Impact”**  
*Stockholm, 9-11 September 2021*

**2019** 15th ESIL Annual Conference on **“Sovereignty –  
A Concept in Flux?”**  
*Athens, 12-14 September 2019*

**2018** 14th ESIL Annual Conference on **“International  
Law and Universality”**  
*Manchester, 13-15 September 2018*

**2017** 13th ESIL Annual Conference on **“Global Public  
Goods, Global Commons and Fundamental Values  
– The Responses of International Law”**  
*Naples, 7-9 September 2017*

**2016** 12th ESIL Annual Conference on **“How  
International Law Works in Times of Crisis?”**  
*Riga, 8-10 September 2016*

**2015** 11th ESIL Annual Conference on  
**“The Judicialization of International Law – A  
Mixed Blessing?”**  
*Oslo, 10-12 September 2015*

**2014** 10th ESIL Annual Conference on **“Boundaries  
of International Law and Bridges to Other  
Disciplines”**  
*Vienna, 4-6 September 2014*

## Biennial Conferences

### 2012 5th Biennial Conference on “Regionalism and International Law”

Valencia, 13-15 September 2012

### 2010 4th Biennial Conference on “International Law 1989-2010: A Performance Appraisal”

Cambridge, 2-4 September 2010

### 2008 3rd Biennial Conference on “International Law in a Heterogeneous World”

Heidelberg, 4-6 September 2008

### 2006 2nd Biennial Conference on “International Law: Do We Need It?”

Paris, 18-20 May 2006

### 2004 Inaugural Founding Conference “International Law in Europe: Between Tradition and Renewal”

Florence, 13-15 May 2004

## Research Fora

### 2025 ESIL Research Forum on “International Law in the Age of ‘Permacrisis’”

Catania, 20-21 March 2025 (forthcoming)

### 2024 ESIL Research Forum on “Revisiting Interactions between Legal Orders”

Nicosia, 18-19 April 2024

### 2023 ESIL Research Forum on “Regional Developments of International Law in Eastern Europe and Post-Soviet Eurasia”

Tartu, 27-28 April 2023

### 2022 ESIL Research Forum on “International Law and Global Security Regulating an Illusion?”

Glasgow, 31 March-1 April 2022

### 2021 ESIL Research Forum on “Solidarity – The Quest for Founding Utopias of International Law”

Catania, 15-16 April 2021

### 2019 ESIL Research Forum on “International Rule of Law and Domestic Dimensions – Synergies and Challenges”

Göttingen, 4-5 April 2019

### 2018 ESIL Research Forum on “International Law in Times of Disorder and Contestation”

Jerusalem, 28 February-1 March 2018

### 2017 ESIL Research Forum on “The Neutrality of International Law Myth or Reality?”

Granada, 30-31 March 2017

### 2016 ESIL Research Forum on “The Making of International Law”

Istanbul, 21-22 April 2016

### 2015 Inaugural ESIL Annual Research Forum

Florence, 14-15 May 2015

### 2013 5th Research Forum on “International Law as a Profession”

Amsterdam, 23-25 May 2013

### 2011 4th Research Forum on “International Law and Power Politics”

Tallinn, 26-28 May 2011

### 2009 3rd Research Forum on “Changing Futures? Science and International Law”

Helsinki, 2-3 October 2009

### 2007 2nd Research Forum on “The Power of International Law in Times of European Integration”

Budapest, 28-28 September 2007

### 2005 1st Research Forum on “International Law: Contemporary Issues”

Geneva, 26-28 May 2005

# ANNEX II: ESIL Publications

## Books

In 2017, ESIL established the ESIL-OUP book series, which aims to publish high-quality volumes on the themes of ESIL Annual Conferences and/or other ESIL events. So far, seven volumes have been published, based on Annual Conferences (vols. 1, 3, 5, 7) and ESIL Joint Events (vols. 2, 4, 6):

Volume 7 **International Law and Universality**  
edited by *Işıl Aral* and *Jean d'Aspremont* (2024)

Volume 6 **Secondary Rules of Primary Importance in International Law**  
edited by *Gábor Kajtár*, *Başak Çali*, and *Marko Milanovic* (2022)

Volume 5 **The Protection of General Interests in Contemporary International Law**  
edited by *Massimo Iovane*, *Fulvio M. Palombino*, *Daniele Amoroso*, and *Giovanni Zarra* (2021)

Volume 4 **Migration and the European Convention on Human Rights**  
edited by *Başak Çali*, *Ledi Bianku*, and *Iulia Motoc* (2021)

Volume 3 **How International Law Works in Times of Crisis**  
edited by *George Ulrich* and *Ineta Ziemele* (2019)

Volume 2 **The European Convention on Human Rights and General International Law**  
edited by *Anne van Aaken* and *Iulia Motoc* (2018)

Volume 1 **The Judicialization of International Law. A Mixed Blessing?**  
edited by *Andreas Follesdal* and *Geir Ulfstein* (2018)

Between 2008 and 2016, five volumes of Select Proceedings of ESIL Conferences were published by Hart Publishing:

Volume 5 **Select Proceedings of the European Society of International Law**  
edited by *August Reinisch*, *Mary E Footer*, and *Christina Binder* (2016)

Volume 4 **Select Proceedings of the European Society of International Law**  
edited by *Mariano J Aznar* and *Mary E Footer* (2012)

Volume 3 **Select Proceedings of the European Society of International Law**  
edited by *James Crawford* and *Sarah Nouwen* (2012)

Volume 2 **Select Proceedings of the European Society of International Law**  
edited by *Hélène Ruiz Fabri*, *Rüdiger Wolfrum*, and *Jana Gogolin*

Volume 1 **Select Proceedings of the European Society of International Law**  
edited by *Hélène Ruiz Fabri*, *Emmanuelle Jouannet*, and *Vincent Tomkiewicz* (2008)

## Papers

The ESIL Paper Series features papers presented at ESIL events (Annual Conferences, Research Fora, and Interest Groups events). Publication in the series enables authors to disseminate their work widely and reach broader audiences without the usual delays involved in more traditional means of publication. It does not prevent the subsequent publication of papers in academic journals or edited collections.

Papers (open access) can be found on the ESIL website:

Papers from 2021-2024 events are published in the [EUI Cadmus Repository](#).

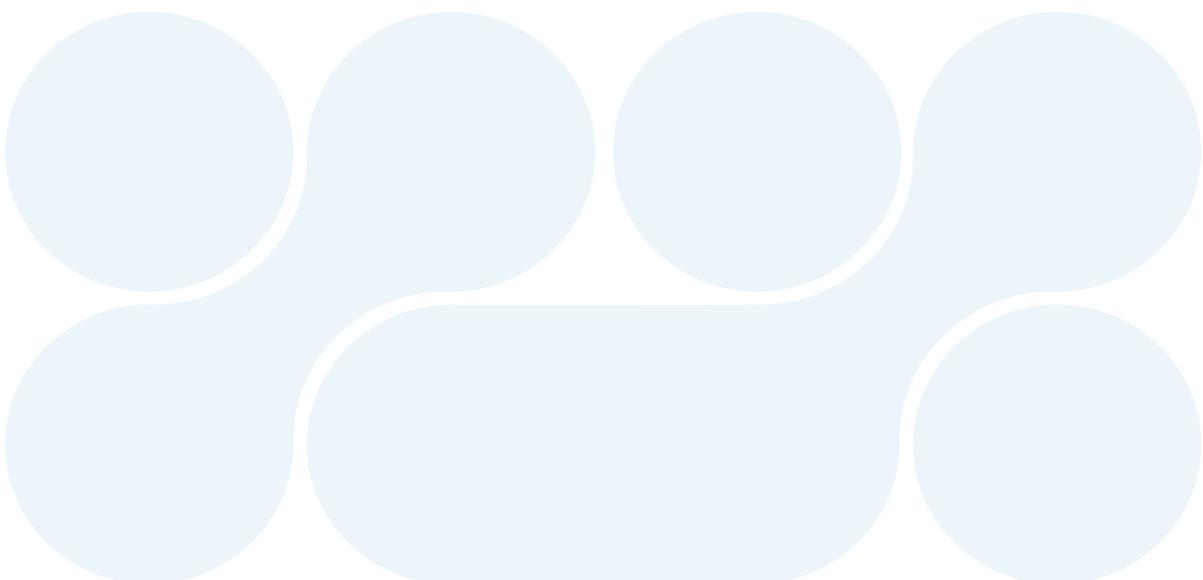
Papers from 2011-2019 events are published on [SSRN](#).

Papers from 2004-2009 events are published on the [ESIL website](#).

## Online Publications

[ESIL Reflections](#) offer up-to-date reflections on current issues in international law. The Reflections cover a wide range of topics relating to current developments in international law and practice as well as theoretical reflections in a way that is relatively accessible to non-experts. The aim is to foster discussion between ESIL members and international law scholars and practitioners more generally – in Europe, but also beyond. ESIL Reflections are published on the ESIL website and distributed to all current ESIL members.

[ESIL Newsletters](#) are a quarterly publication which gives ESIL members information about the latest events, publications, and the life of the Society. Each newsletter also features an op-ed by a leading academic or practitioner on recent events in the field of international law, as well as a “Meet an ESIL member” video introducing a member of the Society. Newsletters are published on the ESIL website and distributed to all current ESIL members.



# ANNEX III: ESIL Interest Groups' Events and Other Activities

## Interest Groups' Events

The Society has 21 Interest Groups, which independently organise a wide range of **events**. As well as the events organised throughout the year, online workshops can be organised alongside the annual Research Forum, and workshops (on-site, online, or hybrid) are organised by most groups prior to the Annual Conference.

- 1 Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals
- 2 Interest Group on International Human Rights Law
- 3 Interest Group on International Legal Theory and Philosophy
- 4 Interest Group on Peace and Security
- 5 Interest Group on the History of International Law
- 6 Interest Group on International Organisations
- 7 Interest Group on International Environmental Law
- 8 Interest Group on International Economic Law
- 9 Interest Group on the EU as a Global Actor
- 10 Interest Group on International Business and Human Rights

All Interest Groups' Events are advertised on the ESIL website and in the monthly ESIL Updates email sent to all members.

Interest Groups (listed in order of the number of members in 2023):

- 11 Interest Group on the Law of the Sea
- 12 Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law
- 13 Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law
- 14 Interest Group on Feminism and International Law
- 15 Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law
- 16 Interest Group on International Criminal Justice
- 17 Interest Group on International Law and Technology
- 18 Interest Group on the International Law of Culture
- 19 Interest Group on International Health Law
- 20 Interest Group on International Bio Law
- 21 Interest Group on Energy and International Law

## ESIL Joint Events

Since 2019, ESIL has co-hosted joint events in collaboration with ESIL members and their institutions. Examples of past events include workshops organised with the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union, as well as a range of universities throughout Europe.

Limited financial support is offered in the form of travel grants for some speakers, and, if appropriate, the organisers of the joint event can eventually edit a publication in the ESIL series. All joint events are advertised on the **ESIL website** and in the monthly ESIL Updates email sent to all members. To date, more than 30 joint events have been held.

## ESIL-Supported Events

Members can apply for ESIL support of local events focused on the study and dissemination of international law, such as conferences, lectures, and discussions. To offer such support, the Board considers the academic quality of the programme, the geographical distribution of the locations, and the participation from various countries.

At least one ESIL member should be involved in the programme. ESIL-supported events are advertised on the [ESIL website](#) and in the monthly ESIL Updates email sent to all members. 36 in-person or online ESIL-supported events have been held since 2019.

## ESIL Lecture Series

The Lecture Series hosts broadcasts of presentations by leading experts in international law and senior academics on international law topics. These are held at partner institutions such as universities, enabling the presentation to reach a wider audience of ESIL

members and non-members alike. Lectures follow the format of either a single speaker (with or without a commentator), a panel discussion, or a question-and-answer session. ESIL Lectures are available on the [ESIL website](#) and the [ESIL YouTube Channel](#).

## Teaching Corner

The Teaching Corner is hosted on the [ESIL website](#) and can be accessed by ESIL members to share syllabi, module

outlines, reading lists, and other international law teaching materials and tools.

## Early-Career Mentoring Programme

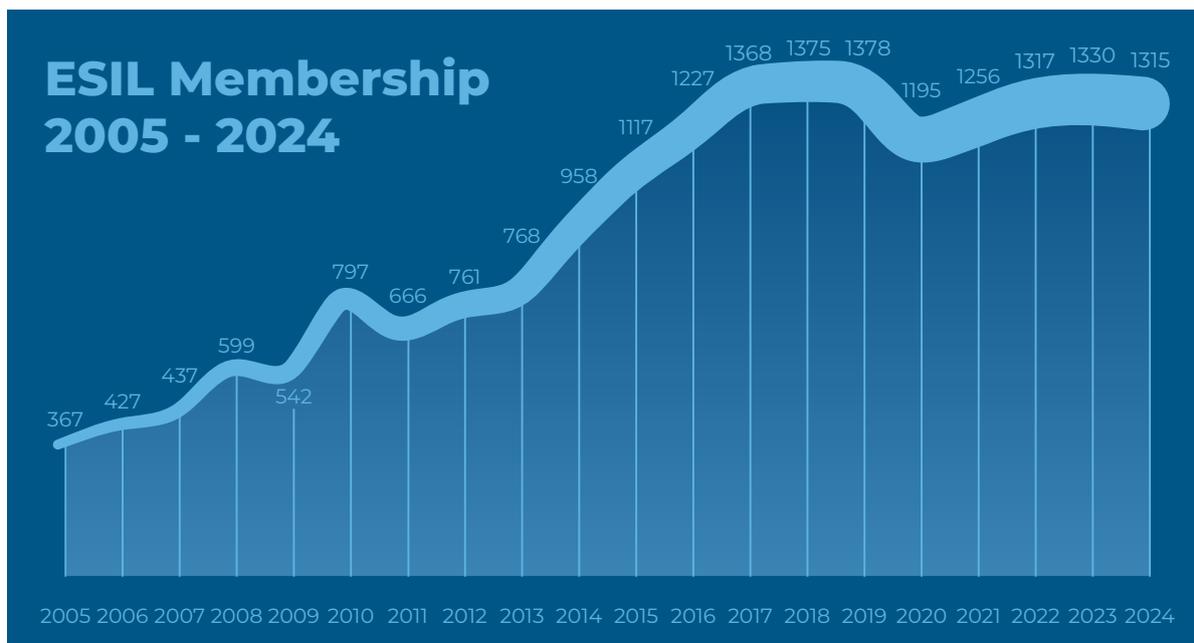
The ESIL Early-Career Network Co-ordinating Committee launched [the ESIL Early-Career Mentoring Programme](#) in September 2023, to foster the growth and development of emerging scholars and professionals in the field of international law.

The programme aims to forge meaningful connections within the ESIL community, facilitating deeper engagement and knowledge-sharing between early-career enthusiasts and established scholars.

# ANNEX IV: ESIL Membership

## Overview

The graph below shows the number of current ESIL members each year since 2005. The number of members increased steadily until 2019, followed by a slight decrease in the number of members in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. Membership numbers have increased to about 1,300 members every year since then. In December 2024, ESIL reached 1315 members.



Of the total of **1315** members in 2024:

- **324 (24.6%)** were new members of the Society;
- **135 (10.2%)** were 'returners' i.e., members in the past but not in 2023;
- **128 (9.7%)** paid a reduced fee, of whom 58 were new members.

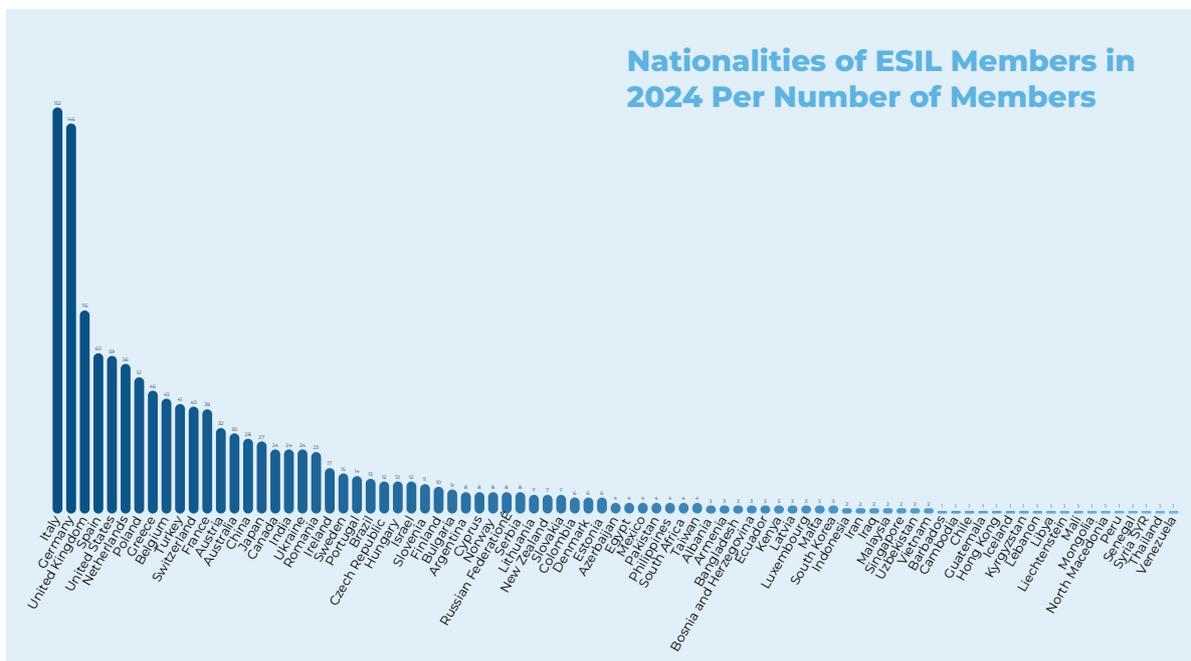
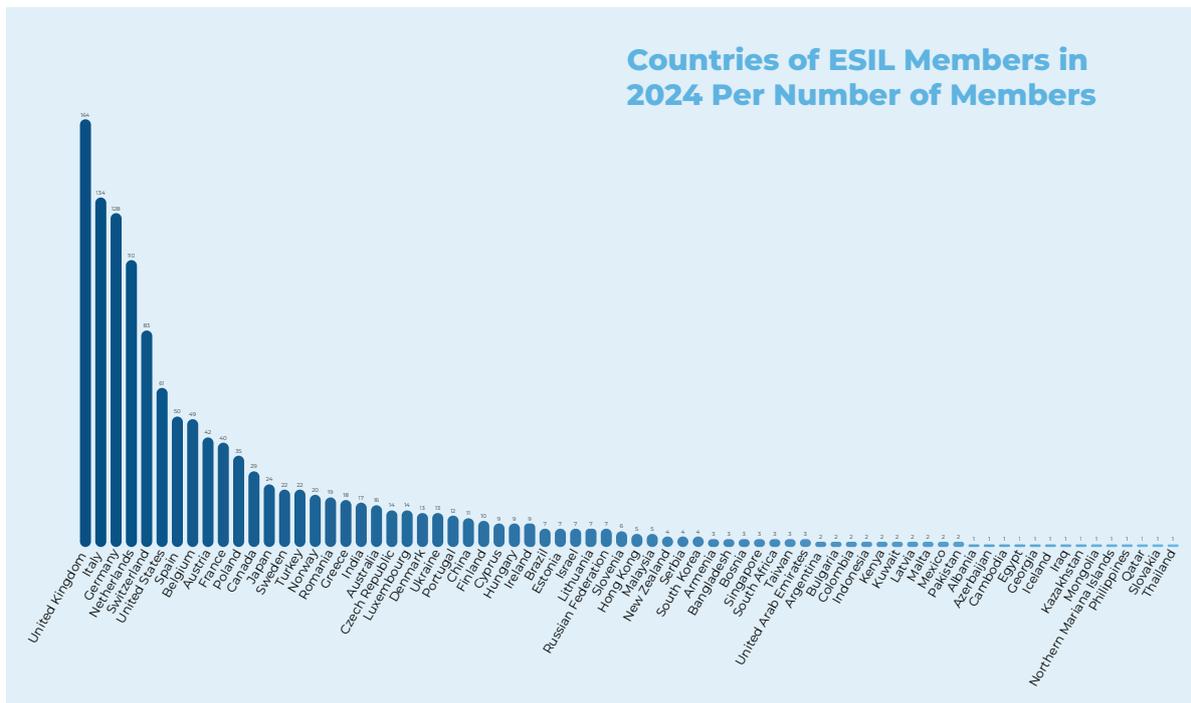
Of the **1330** ESIL members of 2023, **473** subscribers that were members in 2023 did not renew their membership in 2024.

**711** Regular members  
**392** Student members  
**149** 5-year members  
**51** Lifetime members  
**12** Institutional members

# 2024 Members in Terms of Country of Work/Study and Nationality

Analysis of the country of work and the nationality of all the 2024 members indicates that the 1315 members lived in 72 different countries. However, six countries (The United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the

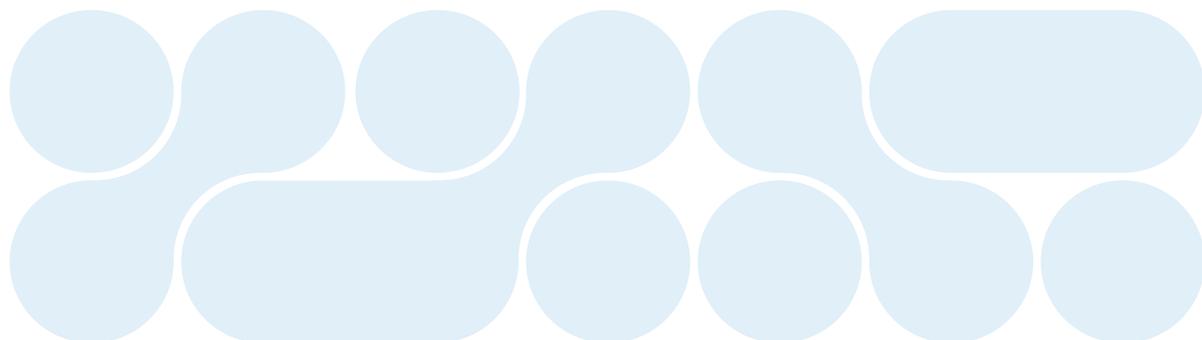
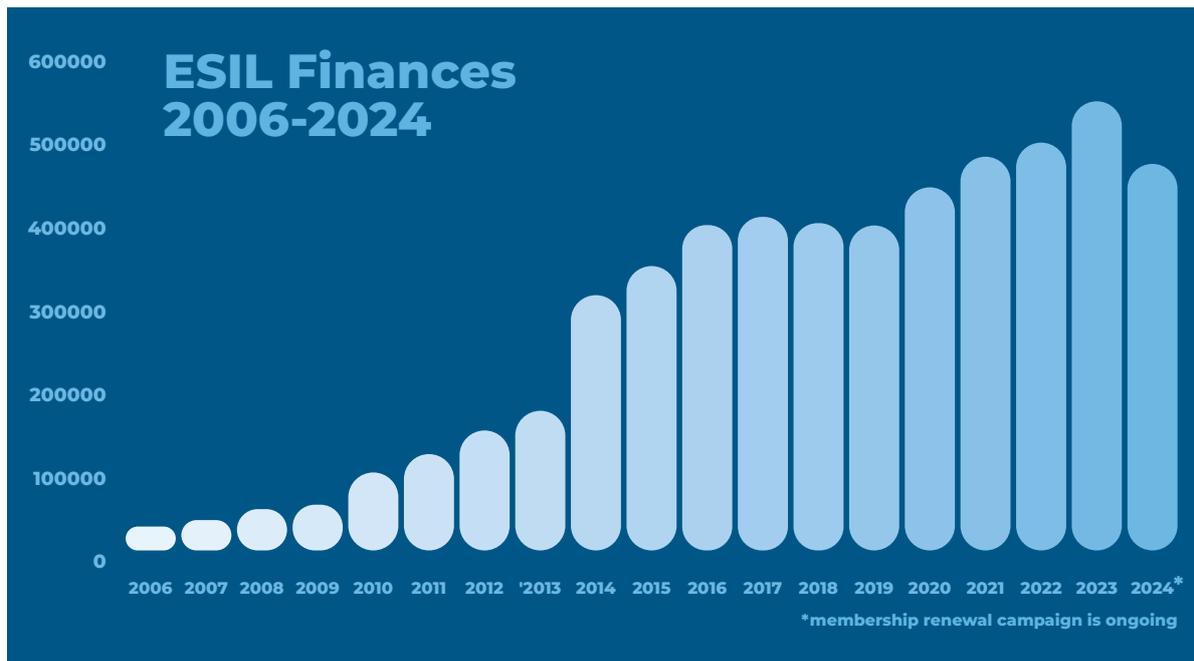
United States) account for 50% of the total. 14 countries had only one member, and 10 had only two members. Similarly, members were of 83 different nationalities, but 9 nationalities accounted for 50% of the total.



# ANNEX V: ESIL Finances

ESIL has two main sources of revenue: membership fees, which account for the bulk of its revenues, and a modest sum of royalties from ESIL publications. There are two categories of membership for institutional partners such as law firms, academic institutions, and publishers. To date, institutional membership fees have had a modest impact on ESIL’s budget. ESIL’s creation of the category of Lifetime Membership for individuals who wish to make a lifelong commitment to the Society has contributed positively to the Society’s finances.

The graph below reflects the overall state of ESIL’s finances from 2006 to 2024.



**20<sup>th</sup>** **esil** **sedi** **EUROPEAN**  
ANNIVERSARY **SOCIETY OF**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**LAW**

# ESIL 20+10

## A DECADE OF OPPORTUNITY

**AEUI** ACADEMY OF  
EUROPEAN LAW

Support for ESIL is provided  
by the Academy of European  
Law of the European  
University Institute.

*Cathedral of Santa  
Maria del Fiore,  
Florence, Italy*

**European Society of  
International Law**

Academy of European Law  
European University Institute  
Villa Salviati, Via Bolognese 156  
50139 Florence, Italy

email: [esil.secretariat@eui.eu](mailto:esil.secretariat@eui.eu)