

European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts – ENLSC

Provisional headquarters: Università di Pavia - Laboratorio Biologia dello Sviluppo, Piazza Botta 9 – 27100 Pavia (I)
Collegio Ghislieri, Piazza Ghislieri 5, 27100 Pavia (I)
E-mail: enlsc@unipv.it
Tel +39 0382506306 - Fax +39 0382506270
Website: www.....

Project for a

European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts

Draft Program

In the next decades the issues related to science and law will reasonably increase both in frequency and importance. The project for a *European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts* (ENLSC) is embedded in such a context/reality.

Aims

ENLSC aims are as follows:

a) to promote both among judges and scientists a better knowledge of how science affects law, and vice versa, and to increase the awareness about

- the assumptions in reasoning and practices in science and law;
- the relationship between science and law as embedded in societal processes.

b) to offer European judges and Courts the most relevant and critical information on civil, criminal and administrative cases arising from the fields related to life sciences and health, such as genetics, molecular biology, bioinformatics, biotechnology (in the human and agricultural areas), medicine, epidemiology and eco-toxicology;

c) to offer scientists the opportunity to understand and debate the legal and social framework in which they operate.

ENLSC does not give solutions to problems arising from specific cases. It simply provides a learning opportunity to judges in dealing with the matters of life sciences, health and law.

Although ENLSC operates in Europe, it has a worldwide perspective and regards as a prior task the co-operation with similar organizations all over the world.

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Activities

The main activities of the European Network are as follows:

- in cooperation with institutions dedicated to judicial education, with universities and research centres, to organise courses and seminars in order to respond to the growing learning needs of the European judges and magistrates in science-law matters;
- to create opportunities in which the worlds of the life sciences and the law (both research institutions and courts) can work together in research and educational activities. Doing so they can tackle the extremely difficult problems arising from the interaction between the categories of law and those of science.

A special section for university students has the aim of giving them the opportunity to participate in some ENLSC initiatives and, doing so, to begin to tackle the issues related to science and law.

The Promoting group

ENLSC activities are organized by a network of institutions and individual scholars and judges working to ensure the best interaction of the national and European points of view, in the light of the world reality and debate.

A Promoting Group is currently operating.

Means and funding

The provisional headquarters are located at the University of Pavia (I), Laboratorio di Biologia dello Sviluppo and Collegio Ghislieri, which have given their initial support to the promotion of ENLSC.

As a general financial policy ENLSC aims to be funded by public institutions, universities and by no-profit making institutions, and especially by European institutions.

Funds from private individuals, trusts or companies could be accepted under special conditions of transparency, to be evaluated case by case.