



## ELFA RESOLUTION ON “FINANCING OF LAW FACULTIES”

The European Law Faculties Association  
at its Annual General Meeting in Strasbourg on Friday 21 March 2014  
has adopted the following

### RESOLUTION

Relating to the financing of Law Faculties

Whereas the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge is essential for the economic, social and cultural development of countries;

Whereas high quality legal research and education play a key role in the promotion of the rule of law in society;

Whereas in view of the high number of law students, decreasing or static funding poses a threat to the quality of legal education;

Whereas European countries have widely differing models of university financing;

Whereas in some European countries the philanthropic tradition in support of higher education is more developed than in others;

Whereas legal research and education is not limited by national frontiers or jurisdictional boundaries;

Whereas high quality research and education in the science of law is the core activity of Law Faculties;

Whereas the science and study of law also take account of the role of law in society and its function as a key framework for relations in society;

Whereas in an increasingly competitive context, Law Faculties should develop strategies enabling them to maintain their identity in terms of research and education; these strategies should be institutionally coordinated to facilitate more effective action in relation to public institutions.

The European Law Faculties Association makes the following recommendations to European, national and regional legislators and administrations, as well as to its member Law Faculties and others.

1. Public sector Law Faculties should be sufficiently funded to ensure that they continue to be able to produce high quality legal research and offer high quality education in the science of law and its application. This also means that funding needs to offer certainty for a number of years.
2. Law Faculties should be encouraged to seek and obtain additional funding from alternative sources, without compromising the integrity of research and teaching.
3. Such additional funding should not be used as an excuse to diminish public sector funding but should instead be used to develop and deliver additional dimensions in research and teaching for the benefit of law in society, in particular bearing in mind the importance of the rule of law.
4. Law Faculties should be encouraged to look to the international dimensions and opportunities which emerging markets and the opening up of demand for high quality legal research and education create.
5. Law Faculties should continue to ensure that their staff maintain and further develop a high degree of professionalisation, taking account of new developments in pedagogical skills and opportunities.
6. Multidisciplinary approaches and courses can offer additional opportunities for the development of high quality and societally relevant programmes which can enhance the unity of knowledge and the contribution of the academy to society.
7. Law Faculties educate graduates who may or may not go into the traditional legal professions, so students, employers and others should be aware of the intellectual value of the study of law, which is central to the place of the science of law in the academy and in society.
8. Law Faculties should develop appropriate contacts and links with the Bar, the judiciary, the legal professions and others in order to promote opportunities for working together and building on each other's expertise, as well as enabling students to benefit from such contacts and links.