

# Widening the access to top quality higher education

# European Distance Education in Law Network

## Our Partnership

- FernUniversität in Hagen (FeU)
- Open Universiteit Nederland (OUNI)
- Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)

FeU, UNED and OUNI are three leading European distance learning universities firmly devoted to further the principle of equal opportunity by safeguarding equal access to top quality higher education to everyone, using a methodology based on the principles of modern distance learning focused on the needs of the student. In 2014, after eight years of successful cooperation in the organization of international common teaching activities on the bachelor level, these universities established a Strategic Partnership to further cultural exchange and best practices in the internationalisation of high quality education in law for all three Bologna cycles.

## Our Project – European Distance Education in Law Network (EDELNet)

The goals of this project address current needs in the European society, as identified in the 2011 EU Modernisation Agenda (COM (2011) 567 final), namely:

- widening the access to top quality higher education, especially for disadvantaged groups such as students with disabilities, economic, social or geographical obstacles, health problems or cultural differences;
- modernizing teaching methods in law with an innovative combination of student-centred blended learning tools and concepts. This innovative combination also draws on intercultural communication and interdisciplinary processes for the production, learning and application of relevant inter-subjective knowledge in addition to the traditional contents of legal education;
- implementing the former through international and cross-cultural cooperation.

## Funding

EDELNet is funded by the Partner Universities and the European Union. The Project has been awarded with funding from the DAAD-Erasmus+ Programme for Strategic Partnerships (KA2: Call 2015) for the period 2015-2018.

## Our Medium- and Long-term Goals

• Our medium-term goal is the development of projects that allow us to design and implement international common teaching & research activities that are sustainable in the long run. All these activities encapsulate our three transversal principles:

- Intercultural communication skills
- Student-oriented blended active learning
- High quality scientific production

• Our long-term goals are:

- the establishment of Joint LLM and PhD Programs;
- the sustainability of our LLB common teaching activities; and
- the expansion of the Partnership to new Partners.

## Project outputs

In order to achieve these goals the EDELNet project comprises the development and implementation of:

- virtual and face-to-face teaching activities:
  - Intensive Study Programmes;
  - Virtual Mobility Modules;
- staff training activities in:
  - Intercultural communication;
  - Student-oriented blended methods;
- courseware in:
  - key methodological and substantive areas of the law, including interdisciplinary methods of knowledge production applied to legal practice and scholarship;
  - language competences;
  - intercultural communication skills;
- vertical portal (VORTAL) of the project where the activities of the project will be hosted and disseminated.

