



IAFL Introduction to European Family Law

In cooperation with Bucerius Law School, Hamburg

23rd and 24th October 2025

Thursday, 23rd October 2025

10:00 am: Introduction and welcoming remarks

Emma Hatley, IAFL European Chapter President, and Prof. Dr. Henrike von Scheliha

10:15 am to 11:45: Session 1

Between borders and best interest: Child Protection in a Multi-Level legal framework

Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Henrike von Scheliha presents a recent case and related court orders in light of the Hague conventions of child abduction and protection of children and aspects of German constitutional law. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion.

Panel Chair: Soma Kölcsényi, Hungary

Panel: Sandra Strahm, Switzerland

Carolina Marin Pedreno, England

11:45 to 12:15: Coffee Break

12:15 to 13:30: Session 2

Divorce proceedings all over Europe

Panel Chair: Renato Labi, England

Panel: Alexandre Boiché, France

Daniela Jezova, Slovakia

The panel presents answers to questions related with divorce proceedings, such as

- Jurisdiction for divorce proceedings in different systems: Forum conveniens vs. EU regulations
- Requirements for divorce in different jurisdictions (no-fault divorce; consequences for the party who is responsible for the breakdown of the marriage)
- Applicable law and recognition of foreign divorce orders

13:30 to 14:30: Lunch break

14:30 to 16:00: Session 3

The connection between international family law and immigration law

Chair: Dr. Kerstin Niethammer-Jürgens, Germany

Panel: Alice Meier-Bourdeau, France

Konstantinos Rokas, Greece

We shed light on frequently asked questions, such as:

- Is a marriage concluded abroad (including religious marriages) valid?
- Can a foreign divorce (including private divorce) be recognised?
- Questions of descent as a prerequisite for a child's nationality
- Adoption and fostering in family reunification
- Habitual residence of the child in the event of the parents' flight

16:00 to 16:30: Coffee break

16:30 to 17:30: Young Lawyers' Award

Introduction and presentation of the winner and runner up: Alexandre Boiché

Presentation of the 2025 winner: Hannah Sheen, England

18:00: Drinks Reception

19:00: Dinner

Friday, 24th October 2025

9:00 to 10:30: Session 4

Married and unmarried couples: Maintenance and other financial consequences when relationships break down

Keynote speaker: Dr. Christopher Reibetanz speaks about the different treatment of marriage and non-marital partnerships in international private law and substantive law.

The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion which also focusses on financial consequences of the divorce.

Panel Chair: Valentine Darmois, France

Panel: Alexander Breedon, England
 Lukas Deppenkemper, Germany
 Lovisa Janhagen, Sweden

10:30 to 11:00: Coffee Break

11:00 to 12:15: Session 5

Becoming a mother through Reproductive Medicine: Legal perspectives in a transnational context

Keynote speaker: Anna Schneeberg speaks about legal pathways to motherhood through Reproductive Medicine in a transnational context.

The following panel discussion will, amongst others, line out the definition of motherhood in different European countries.

Panel Chair: Eniko Fulop, Romania

Panel: Sandra Verburgt, The Netherlands
 Matthias Thorshaug Rengard, Norway
 Carolyn Vanthienen, Belgium

12:15: Closing remarks