

INSTITUTE FOR COMPARATIVE LAW,  
CONFLICT OF LAWS AND  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW



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# EUFAMS II

FACILITATING CROSS-BORDER FAMILY LIFE:  
TOWARDS A COMMON EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING

# PROJECT NEWS

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A joint project of the Institute for Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws and International Business Law at Universität Heidelberg, Universitat de València, Università di Verona, Università degli studi di Milano, Lund University, the University of Osijek, the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law and the Asociación Española de Abogados de Familia

cooperating partners:



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PRAVOS

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Max Planck Institute  
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With this periodical, we would like to inform you about the recent results of EUFams II.

EUFams II is a study on European private international law in family and succession matters conducted by academic institutions from various EU Member States and co-funded by the European Commission. The project's objective is to assess the functioning and the effectiveness of the framework of international and European family law, detect potential problems and propose possible improvements. Ultimately, it aims at developing a common European expertise and understanding to secure the uniform, coherent and consistent application of European family law, so as to facilitate the cross-border movement of persons within the EU.

### **SURVEY**

Having conducted a survey in the participating Member States, the project partners were able to gather experiences from approximately 1,400 scientists and practitioners in the field of family and succession law. We would like to thank everyone who shared his experiences with us.

A report on the results of the survey, in particular regarding the various legal instruments, edited by Quincy C. Lobach and Tobias Rapp, can be found on the project website: <http://www2.ipr.uni-heidelberg.de/eufams/index-Dateien/microsites/download.php?art=projektbericht&id=2>

### **CASE LAW DATABASE**

A case database is available on the project website where relevant decisions from EU Member States in the fields of private international law in family and succession matters are recorded. Along with standardised data for each judgement in ten European languages, the database also comprises a respective summary of the facts and the decision as well as a short review in English. Consequently, decisions become easily accessible for science and practice in all EU Member States, regardless of language or national origin.

Especially developed for EUFams II, the technical foundation of the database allows for convenient searching not only for basic data, such as the date of the decision, the Member State and the level of the court, the states involved and subject dealt with, but also for decision contents, such as the applicable norms, the affirmation of international jurisdiction, the choice of court or law and the granting of recognition and enforcement or the taking of evidence.

For example, the database allows for searching for custody cases in which a court has affirmed its jurisdiction pursuant to a certain norm, e.g. Art. 12 of the Brussels II bis Regulation, or for cases in which the taking of evidence abroad was ordered. Moreover, the various national stages leading up to CJEU decisions can be traced (by selecting "Preliminary reference made to the CJEU" in the field "Request prel. ruling" and indicating the CJEU case number).

The database can be found on the project website: <http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/eufams?lang=en>

### **NATIONAL EXCHANGE SEMINARS**

In the course of the project, national exchange seminars were hosted in the project partners' Member States where renowned representatives from science and practice exchanged views on recent problems and reform proposals in the field of European family and succession law.

National reports from Germany, Italy, Croatia, Spain and Sweden can be found on the project website: <http://www2.ipr.uni-heidelberg.de/eufams/index.php?site=projektberichte&lang=en>