

GELC Workshop report

Importance of Legal Clinics for an Innovative Legal education – Ideas collected at the GELC Workshop (LAWGEM project), held on May 2, 2022.

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1. Introduction – LAWGEM project and GELC

Within the LAWGEM project (New Quality in Education for Gender Equality – Strategic Partnership for the development of master’s Study program LAW and GENDER – LAWGEM), one of the intellectual outputs has been related to creating the syllabus for GELC as the component of the curriculum of master’s study program Law and Gender. The GELC syllabus had been completed in a due time, in accordance with the proposed time schedule within the LAWGEM project. However, more concrete ideas have been needed about “know-how” regarding the implementation of this syllabus and making it alive and applicable in the students’ education within LAW and GENDER master’s study program. The workshop related to legal clinics and particularly to the so-called Gender Equality Legal Clinic (GELC), was organized with an attempt to contribute to widening and deepening the knowledge of the LAWGEM project participants about the role and sense of legal clinics and about modalities in which GELC will be conducted at the LAWGEM consortium partner universities. In other words, main aims were to get insights about how legal clinics have been operating at partner universities from different European countries and to elaborate ideas and practices of implementing GELC at the universities involved in the LAWGEM project. Five consortium members (Cadiz University, LUMSA University, Europa Institut/Saarland University, Belgrade University and Orebro University) had representatives at the GELC workshop.

2. Background Analysis

Bologna declaration from 1999 proposed, among other innovative ideas, an introducing of legal clinics as the mode of advancing legal education through a stronger promotion of social justice. Traditional more *ex catedra* legal education was questioned and analysis of legal cases and/or working with real legal cases within legal clinics, as the additional and new form of work has been established. The reasons for introducing legal clinics were related, among others, to the requirements imposed to legal education to be more open and capable to respond to serious social and political challenges which Europe had been faced with. European legal system also tried to respond better and deeper to these challenges by adopting anti-discrimination laws, strategies and soft law aiming at advancing gender equality and acquiring more social justice.

European Network for Clinical legal education was established in 2013. This network initiated and stimulated a very vibrant exchange of ideas among legal experts and rising numbers of students interested in getting additional practically oriented legal education.

3. Role and Aims of Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Clinics

Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Clinics are two mutually interconnected forms and contents of conducting this kind of additional/enriching/alternative/supplementing dimension of the mainstream legal education.

Benefits of conducting legal clinics are in raising the quality of university education, and stimulating an interaction between academia, state, and civil society.

Legal aid clinics and clinical legal education provide either free legal aid to real clients/victims of discrimination or enrich the knowledge of students about real cases of discrimination and increase the students' sensitivity for different manifestations of discriminatory behavior in both the real life and the existent legislation (and/or its interpretation and implementation). Legal aid clinics do function in some countries and their universities as the tool for legal assistance to real clients. However, in some other countries and their universities the work with clients and real cases is not allowed but is available more theoretical clinical legal education (oriented towards legal practice, but only within an educational frame). It also serves to legal assistance, but in a more indirect way (through analyzing the cases, simulating courts' decision making, putting the focus on gender competent perspective and sensitization of students for recognizing violations of human rights and for combatting the mentioned violations).

The whole activity focused on fighting discrimination and inequality increases an interest in human rights and social justice, and it also promotes active citizenship and democratic participation. In addition, attending legal clinics contributes to getting more awareness about the cases of social injustice and aiming at overcoming discrimination, subordination, and inequalities; it contributes to sensitization of students for human rights violation and for raising legal competence and orientation towards better protection of human rights and towards interpreting law in a more just manner.

“The mission of legal clinic therefore is to show the law as human construct historically determined with limits but able to be refined, the product of time, place, circumstances but also the key to make the reality different. They therefore offer young people the exciting experience of being agents of social change, aimed at building a more equitable and inclusive society, or at least trying to reduce the impact of an excessively unbalanced distribution of power, resources, and rights.” (Celia Bartoli, 2016, 25).

European Network of Legal Clinics enhances the students' mobility and strengthen relationships between universities, scholars, and activists in the EU.

3.1. Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Clinics Focused on Gender Equality, GELC

Legal clinics focused primarily on gender equality issues have been still a rear phenomenon. GELC will promote the women's rights and gender justice/feminist judging and insofar will be of a great importance for students' sensitization for combatting gender inequality and different forms of

discrimination based on gender and sex, as well as based on additional multiple forms of discrimination (like as social status, religion, class, race, cultural differences, etc.).

Clinical legal education with a focus on women's rights facilitates a variety of pro-bono projects, among which are those with giving direct advice and assistance to women through the Law Clinics, and sometimes also an assistance in the Courts. Women do face gender-based barriers in accessing justice. Governmental Schemes for legal aid are not sufficient to support women in most jurisdictions and different countries' social assistance systems. Women's legal empowerment is in principle rooted in their knowledge of law and how to use the law to claim rights. However, poverty and lack of education have represented strong barriers in that respect. Insofar, legal aid clinics and clinical legal education have a great importance in replacing the knowledge-based empowerment especially in the case of vulnerable groups of women, who do need professional pro-bono assistance and help.

Legal aid clinics and clinical legal education contribute differently but cumulatively to combatting gender-based injustice conceived as discrimination, inequality, violence and as not having access to justice. Reasons for ill treatment of women before the law can come out from gender insensitive laws – discriminatory laws, male/dominated laws, gender biased laws as well as from biases and stereotypes of the judges, gender incompetent interpretation of law, judgements made in a gender incompetent manner.

The objectives of the LAWGEM Gender Legal Clinic course are: 1) to increase students' gender consciousness and knowledge of intersectional perspective in handling cases, 2) to enhance students' abilities to critically analyze structural inequalities and propose constructive changes to the legal and justice system, 3) to develop students' capacities to work with national and international bodies and further cooperate with civil society in their advocacy for gender justice. Outcomes of the GELC course are proposed to be: 1) In-depth knowledge on the importance of gender and intersectional gender analysis through looking at policies and practices at national, European, and international levels. 2) Necessary skills on how to provide advice including legal services to the victims of certain crimes with special attention to social positionality of the victims in relation to gender, sexuality, race, class, ethnicity, (dis)ability, religion, nationality, and age. 3) Required ability on cooperation with other organizations; NGOs and GOs and practitioners at regional, national, and international levels to advocate for achieving gender justice.

4. Implementation of GELC

The flexibility of legal clinic allows for a close focus on variety of issues related to gender. Below is a presentation of how legal clinics have been operating in different countries and LAWGEM partner universities belonging to them, as well as how the mentioned different partner universities work to develop Gender Equality Legal Clinics (GELC) based on the LAWGEM project.

4.1. Sweden

Concerning the Nordic Welfare states, according to the data of the European Commission for Efficiency of Justice 2020, the data show that they are giving the most legal aid per inhabitant: Norway poses the first place, Sweden the 6th, Denmark the 8th, Finland, and Iceland – 11th. There

is also a generous legal aid with budgetary share in Ireland (39%), Norway (33%), and Sweden (30%). Norway, Sweden, and Iceland, spend more than 25 € per inhabitant per year.

In Sweden, in 1919 was announced the legal aid act was the first legislation to provide free legal aid to poor people; 1960 legal aid act was to provide both litigation aid and legal aid assistance; 1973 Legal Aid Act (1972: 429) was to equalize access to legal services by enabling everybody. However, Legal Aid Act came into force in December 1997 to cut public spending on legal aid, and it has been still the current law. (Schoultz, 2018: 46).

When legal aid in Sweden is concerned, there is public and private cover for legal aid in civil cases in Sweden. Legal expenses insurance Rättsskyddas is the part of household insurance. Legal aid insurance Rättshjälpunder is available under certain conditions: the person must earn less than 28000 euros or 260000 SEK a year, to have no legal insurance, not have financial means to cover the legal aid, and only is available for private individuals.

More than one hundred publicly employed lawyers working in twenty-eight bureaus at the county level (the state-financed legal aid bureaus) were closed in 1999. (Schoultz 2018: 46)

Alternatives to the private legal aid is *judicare* - Pro bono. Free legal advice by lawyers from the Swedish Bar Association Legal firms exists, which give legal advice on issues like immigration (they are organized within the so-called The Swedish Advice Centre)

There are also Voluntary Student Legal Clinic. In the period 2005-2013, new student initiatives targeting homeless people or socially disadvantaged (in Lund and Uppsala). A very interesting legal aid clinic IUSBUSS is organized in Oslo/Norway, where the prestigious legal experts – lawyers and judges give assistance. It is “Law Buss” run by students of Oslo Faculty of Law and performed with the help of prestigious legal experts but conducted through the communication with the common people in the public transport.

The conventional understanding of legal clinic entails provision of legal services to the poor, however, in the course we have developed in the LAWGEM project, we adopt a close focus on gender as well as an intersectional perspective as to how to provide different types of services to diverse groups of people. This means that the course is not limited to law students and students receive training in variety of subjects such as international law, human rights, gender and sexuality, disability and violence which enhances their knowledge to handle different cases.

4.2.Germany

Concerning the situation with legal aid clinics and clinical legal education (CLE) in Germany the background assumption is that In principle, there is no need for legal clinics due to the German social system, which pays an utmost attention to free access to legal assistance to the common people. First, because of the *Rechtsberatungsgesetz* (The Legal Advice Act), until 2008 only admitted lawyers were allowed to give legal advice. In addition, the training system for lawyers is also somewhat different in Germany - 4 years study, first state examination in law *Referendariat* (means 1,5 years legal clerkship □ bar exam). Due to the legal clerkship, it was not considered necessary to deal with CLE; furthermore, the legal system in Germany is designed in such a way that actually everyone has access to law and to legal assistance regardless of the economic

circumstances. Legal Service Act from 2008 enables certain changes, as said in § 6 Para. 2 of the German Legal Services Act: “Anyone who provides free legal services outside of family, neighbourly or similarly close personal relationships must ensure that the legal service is provided by a person who is permitted to provide legal services against payment, by a person who is qualified to hold judicial office or under the instruction of such a person. Instruction requires induction and training which is oriented to the scope and content of the legal services to be provided as well as involvement in the provision of the legal service in so far as this is necessary in the individual case. “

However, with the change of law in 2008 legal clinics and clinical legal education could be established and started being introduced. However, it was still not considered necessary at the universities, because of doing the legal clerkship and still these activities are treated as socially unnecessary. However, the practice of introducing legal clinics into the higher education has been in a progress also in Germany. Main objectives of these attempts are – to Increase the quality of education, to increase and enhance the professional skills of young lawyers, to close the gap between education and society. As said above, this new teaching method is slowly finding its way into German faculties. However, there has not been any consistent concept on the part of the ministries or the universities yet. Interestingly enough, initiatives for establishing legal clinics tend to come from the students themselves. The so-called refugee crisis boosted initiatives for creating legal aid clinics. Since 2014 several Legal Clinics - Refugee Law Clinics have been founded due to student commitment, and from 2014 to today German universities have 30 Refugee Law Clinics. It is important to mention that even the refugees actually have the right to a lawyer in Germany, but there were hardly any lawyers in the field of asylum and migration law. Therefore, the students wanted to close this gap and with the previous change of law this was possible. Some of the challenges are – not fully integrated work of legal clinics into the educational system, no payment for teachers who are conducting legal clinical education. Legal clinics are mostly organized privately as associations, meaning that do not have connection to the university/faculty; or, they function as the parallel educational program but not fully integrated. These limitations and challenges lead to problems of sustainability, as there are no responsible persons at the universities and there are no resources for them. For improving the situation and securing the sustainability of legal aid clinics and clinical legal education, German academic staff and professors must engage with new modern teaching methods (meaning – must include legal clinics inherently into educational programs) and commit to breaking new ground within legal education In order to have a long-lasting and sustainable impact. In other words, the concept and practice of legal clinics and clinical legal education must be supported by the university and must be institutionalized.

4.3. Spain

Concerning Spain, the Spanish Network of Legal Clinics has been established since 2007. The Legal Clinic of the University of Cadiz (CLINUCA) belongs to the Spanish Network of Legal Clinics. CLINUCA is working since 2017 and is an example of how Legal Clinics work in Spain. Legal Clinic of University of Cadiz is assumed to serve as the service from universities to the society, to serve for transferring knowledge to citizens, and as the tool for students’ skills and abilities. Its function is to offer a free initial guidance to citizens on legal problems that affect them,

no professional consultation services available, but information are available about possible courses of action and how to contact professionals. There are no databases of personal information allowed and a confidentiality agreement has to be respected. Concerning the social scope, it is related to citizens with few resources, vulnerable groups and NGOs. It is also related to one of the basic lines of teaching and research at the faculty of law of University of Cadiz, which is focused on vulnerable groups. It is also related to the belonging of the faculty of law to Ibero-American Network of researchers “100 Brasilia Rules”, that is an association focused on the access to justice for persons in conditions of vulnerability; and it has an accent on gender equality and gender perspective. Legal clinic and clinical legal education serve to students’ practical training and achieving the sense of societal responsibility/serving to society, getting awareness about gender inequality and achieving gender sensitive approach to law and legal cases. Students are provided with information about gender injustices and mechanisms for achieving gender justice, they are thought to recognize gender stereotypes in judicial practices and to favor women’s access to justice, in accordance with CEDAW recommendation No 33, para. 29.

4.4. Italy

In the case of Italy, the educational tool called Legal Clinic pursues the aim to enable students to combine theoretical approach with legal training complementary focusing on practice. Moreover, the legal clinic pursues the aim of developing the social ethics of students of Master and students of Law degree course and PhD candidates, too. At the same time, it is proposed to offer services to the community with the aim of promoting social justice in society. The Legal clinic is grounded on the idea that students will be able to acquire and increase their sense of equity and social justice, thanks to the participation in the Legal Clinic.

Under Italian law, it is not mandatory for the Departments of Law to establish or improve free legal clinics or legal aid offices. In fact, legal assistance is reserved for lawyers, and access to free legal assistance is subject to the decisions of the Courts and the Bar Associations. The person who needs free legal assistance must choose a lawyer from a special list held by the Courts and his request will be examined by the Bar Association and then by the Court. It is not possible at this time for universities to organize legal aid teams to assist in a trial. But some legal clinics are offered by a few law departments. Usually, the existing legal clinics in Italy only provide "advice counters", providing a legal guidance service to people before the start of the dispute. Legal clinics are currently set up in Italy to help people in matters of family law, criminal law, immigration, and human rights.

Legal clinics can be a useful tool for simplifying the relationship between the clients and the Public Administration. Namely, the members of the program could help clients interact with this latter by explaining them, for instance, how to fill in the required forms and apply for public expenses, state aids and provisions. In the same perspective of simplification and litigation deflation, the legal clinics could also promote process pluralism and the culture of appropriate dispute resolution. In particular, the participants should be enabled to inform the clients of the whole range of procedures they can choose for protecting their rights and interests and to show the clients the multiple benefits of negotiated solutions following a collaborative rather than an adversarial model.

The "National Coordination of Italian Legal Clinics" Association was established only on March 15, 2019, based in the Department of Law of the University of Brescia.

Gender Equality Legal Clinic (GELC) will be the first legal clinic set up by LUMSA in Palermo. There are currently no legal clinics in the Rome department, too. The Legal Clinic on "Law and Gender" will be created within the framework of the Master "Law and Gender" in collaboration with the PhD course in "Mediterranean Studies. History, Law & Economics". The LUMSA Department of Law will promote partnerships with the Court of Palermo, with the Bar Associations of Sicily and with organizations and associations which are already active in the field of gender discrimination. The legal clinic will set up an orientation and legal advice desk in which students will act under the supervision of professors, tutors, and attorneys at law in order to provide a free legal service addressing all issues which are related to discrimination on the ground of gender. The legal clinic will organize periodic training events, conferences, workshops, and seminars on legal matters in order to spread the legal knowledge on law and gender. Seminars are to involve attorneys at law, judges, and society, mainly associations working in the field. The legal clinic will also be able to support the activities carried out by associations, lawyers, local operators. All these entities will work in cooperation with the legal clinic. In this perspective the Legal Clinic will be the Department's public engagement activity.

4.5. Serbia

In the Republic of Serbia legal clinics are offered by all law faculties that belong to public universities (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš, Kragujevac), as well as by the most respectable private law faculty in the country (Union University in Belgrade). The Faculty of Law of the University of Niš offers four thematic legal clinics: Women's rights legal clinic, Anti-discrimination law legal clinic, Civil law legal clinic and Mobile legal clinic. At the Faculty of Law University of Novi Sad, there are three thematic legal clinics that are currently operative: Legal clinic for the protection of the environment, Refugee law legal clinic and Legal clinic for combating domestic violence. Faculty of Law of the University of Kragujevac offers its students clinical legal education within two different modules: Labour, social and administrative law legal clinic and Legal clinic for protection from domestic violence. The only private law faculty that organizes legal clinics is the Union University Faculty of Law. There are three areas of law in which clinical legal education is offered: family law, medical law, and intellectual property law.

At the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law students may opt within nine modules: Family law legal clinic, Criminal law legal clinic, Civil law legal clinic, Anti-discrimination law legal clinic, Anti-corruption law legal clinic, Asylum and refugee law legal clinic, Environmental law legal clinic, Legal clinic on combating human trafficking and E-legal clinic. Main goals intended to be achieved through legal clinics in Serbia may be divided into two categories. On the one hand, legal clinics are perceived as relevant for the society in general. Namely, they tend to engage universities in the life of the community, enhance professionalism and professional ethics of future lawyers, educate them about the importance of *pro bono* work and sensitize lawyers for the needs and problems of marginalized and vulnerable groups. On the other hand, legal clinics contribute to students in a number of ways. Perceived as a powerful pedagogical model, they not only enable students to revise and upgrade theoretical knowledge acquired within the subject to which the legal

clinic program is related, but also offer additional training to students in terms of practical application of relevant substantive and procedural law of concern for the program of the legal clinic. Legal clinics undoubtedly improve students' practical and analytical skills, students are guided by professionals and experts in solving cases related to real life stories of fellow citizens, as well as trained to establish quality contact with clients, to identify the legal problem and find a proper legal way to solve it. These numerous and diversified goals are achieved through three categories of means. Firstly, although dominantly oriented towards practical work, legal clinics do involve lecturing and highly specialized training of students. As opposed to classical lectures that students receive within mandatory courses offered at the university, lectures within legal clinics are delivered by prominent legal experts and practitioners. Besides in-depth education of students in the field of law covered by the particular legal clinic, students also receive education on legal ethics and successful communication skills, especially on how to conduct interviews and consult with clients. Secondly, previously defined goals are achieved through applying interactive teaching methods that develop students' analytical and practical skills. These include, but are not limited to, legal case studies, writing of various submissions, legal acts and legal opinions, simulations of proceedings and moot courts. Finally, an important tool used by numerous legal clinics in Serbia is cooperation with relevant partners such as state bodies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Established cooperation enables students to engage in various internships, participate in guided study visits, perform field work, attend trials, but also be involved in different kind of practical work at the faculty provided by external experts and practitioners such as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, public notaries, mediators etc. Dependence of legal clinics in Serbia on partner institutions, as well as reliance on previously mentioned interactive teaching methods, has become one of their main features in 2019 with the commencement of application of the Law on Free Legal Aid of the Republic of Serbia. Namely, before the entry into force of the Law on Free Legal Aid, students worked with real life clients and offered them legal aid. The Law on Free Legal Aid deprived law faculties of a possibility to offer free legal aid and, instead, recognized them only as 'providers of free legal support'. According to the relevant provisions of the Law, legal support does not include offering legal advice which is considered an element of free legal aid. Instead, free legal support is restricted to providing general legal information, not information relevant for a particular client or his or her concrete legal problem. In addition, legal support includes filling out forms, but only upon official registration and once registered, the provider of free legal support has a duty to annually report to the Ministry of Justice. Such a legislative solution imposes significant limitations for the functioning of legal clinics in terms of both the opportunities for practical education of students and offering free legal aid to citizens. This general challenge affects all legal clinics. However, it would also be an important obstacle with regard to clinical legal education related to gender equality. In addition to this, gender equality issues within legal clinics would face additional challenges due to two main reasons. Not only is there insufficient commitment to issues of gender-sensitive practice in the general education of law students, but the complexity and multidimensionality of gender equality as a social and legal phenomenon also makes it very difficult to deal with all of its various aspects (criminal law, criminal procedure, civil law, civil procedure, family law, labour law, international law, human rights law) through a classical organization of clinical legal education related to a particular field of law. This argument is supported by the current state of affairs. Namely, there is a limited number

of legal clinics at the universities in Serbia that specialize in gender equality. Women's rights legal clinic operating at the Faculty of Law of the University of Niš covers a number of relevant issues such as women's human rights – international and national standards, discrimination and gender-based inequality, domestic violence and protecting women's personal integrity and property rights. Obviously recognized as a particularly problematic issue in Serbia, domestic violence is the topic focused on within two legal clinics, one in Novi Sad and the other one in Kragujevac. Both legal clinics deal not only with women as victims of domestic violence but also with women as victims of gender-based violence. Finally, the long-running Anti-discrimination law legal clinic operating at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law regularly focuses in its curriculum on different gender issues such as the legal status of transgender persons, hate crimes and discrimination and domestic violence. However, in 2021 this legal clinic offered a set of trainings that related to discrimination based on gender (international legal framework relating to gender discrimination and CEDAW case-law, violence against women, discrimination of women regarding employment and labour law). In addition to the legal clinics that specialize in issues related to gender equality, a number of legal clinics, although oriented towards particular fields of law, deal with particular aspects of gender equality. For example, within Family law legal clinics that operate at the University of Belgrade and the Union University, specific sessions are dedicated to issues involving implementation of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and they both tend to educate students to properly understand and treat cases of gender-based violence. Transgender and intersex people in different types of procedures (request for a decision on changing personal name, requesting reimbursement of costs for hormone therapy...) is a very important issue covered within the curriculum of the Medical law legal clinic at Union University. Sessions dealing with the protection of women and girls' refugees, and in particular female genital mutilation as a form of persecution, are organized on a regular basis within Refugee law legal clinics in Belgrade and Novi Sad. Finally, the relevance of gender issues in relation to trafficking in human beings has recently been recognized within the Legal clinic on combating human trafficking organized by the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade. In 2021 a webinar was organized for students that attend this legal clinic by the NGO Atina entitled "New responses to trafficking and violence against women and girls in the context of global migration". This example of good practice was applied again in 2022, this time as a live event organized at the Faculty in the form of a workshop on risks of human trafficking and gender-based violence within the population of women and girls refugees in Serbia. Namely, the workshop was organized by representatives of the advocacy group „Women on the Way (WOW)“, formed by the NGO Atina. The group consists of women who left their countries of origin and today live, work and continue their life in Serbia. The group was formed in 2019 as part of the program of support for refugee and migrant women and girls in the Republic of Serbia. Through the work of the group, members have the opportunity to further strengthen and create opportunities to acquire additional skills and knowledge, in order to further participate in and created themselves various advocacy activities and thus become the bearers of changes in the system of support for migrants and refugees in the Republic of Serbia. One of the most important goal of the group's work is to set priorities for preventing violations of human rights to which women on the move are exposed by ensuring age-appropriate and gender-sensitive support mechanisms and integration systems. Three young women from Iran, Russia and Nigeria talked to students about their experiences, the reasons why they left their countries of origin and the risks

and challenges women face in migration flows. Such an authentic, moving and ultimately startling experience-telling is the best way to sensitize students about the status, real-life and legal problems of this category of women and girls. For this reason, such workshop as well as other forms of cooperation with the advocacy group „Women on the Way“ will be an integral part of the future Gender equality legal clinic.

5. Conclusion

The GELC will not focus on one particular gender issue. It will instead cover wide range of issues in all areas in which women are at risk: employment and labor, education, violence against women, hate speech, sport etc, as recognized by the National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2021-2030. Of course, the syllabus created for GELC will be the starting point and the basis of creating studying plans for each academic year. Since GELC will not be able to work with real clients, it is important to design appropriate methods that would compensate for the limitations in offering free legal aid introduced by the novel legislative solutions. Within GELC students will be drafting summaries and factsheets of international standards on various gender issues, conducting analysis of existing national legislative and judicial practices and their harmonization with international standards, drafting reports to be submitted to relevant international bodies, preparing briefs, legal analysis and opinions for different stakeholders, organizing debates on legal problems encountered by specific groups of women and other persons of concern for GELC (refugees, Roma, women with disabilities, women victims of domestic violence, women victims of human trafficking, migrant workers, transgender persons, ...), providing ‘know your rights’ info sessions for specific categories of persons of concern for GELC. In order to further enhance the education and training of students that attend future GELC, cooperation with legal clinics at partner institutions within LAWGEM that are allowed to provide free legal aid should be reflected upon and may include joint online sessions on specific topics, guest lectures, students’ mobility etc.