



The project is co-funded by the
Justice Programme of the European Union
JUST-JTRA-EJTR-AG-2016-763874

REPORT

ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE LONG-TERM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

November 2019

drafted by Partner UNIVR

Introduction

The C.L.A.S.S.4EU Long-term Evaluation Questionnaire has been drafted by UNIVR and then circulated among Partners, who submitted proposals and amendments and then agreed on the contents and structure.

The present survey contains questions relating to the background of the trainees, their knowledge and experience on the application of the relevant legal instruments in their daily practice, especially after attending the C.L.A.S.S.4EU training sessions, as well as their comments and suggestions on the overall organisation. Moreover, trainees have been asked whether they wish to create and join a “C.L.A.S.S.4EU Network” to be established for professional purposes and also for the organisation of future training sessions or events, and thus to submit their contact details to this aim.

UNIVR created the questionnaire on the online platform “LimeSurvey” at this link (<http://survey.univr.it/index.php/317542?lang=en>) that has been published on the Project website (<http://sites.les.univr.it/class4eu/index.php/2019/07/19/long-term-evaluation-questionnaire/>), where also the .pdf file is available (<http://sites.les.univr.it/class4eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CLASS4EU-long-term-evaluation-questionnaire.pdf>). The Partners that hosted the training sessions, ie. TEISE, UMINHO, ELTE and UNIMIB, disseminated the questionnaire to all trainees who attended the sessions in the respective countries.

The main purpose of this survey is to gather information and feedback on the C.L.A.S.S.4EU training sessions, as well as professional activities, personal experience and knowledge regarding the application of EU regulations in family matters, especially after having attended any of the C.L.A.S.S.4EU training sessions.

Participants have been informed that all data are processed anonymously, in compliance with data protection legislation and for the purposes of this Project only.

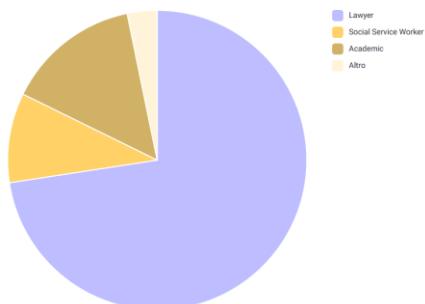
The closing date of the questionnaire was set on 25 November 2019. The submitted responses amounted to 59 (even if not all participants answered to all questions), which have been collected and examined by UNIVR.

All responses are summarised in relation to each question as follows.

Analysis of the outcomes

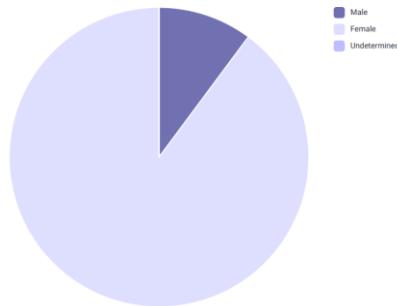
I) Background of the participants

a) As to the professional occupation, 76,27% were lawyers, social service workers 10,17%, academics 15,25%, and one was a psychologist.

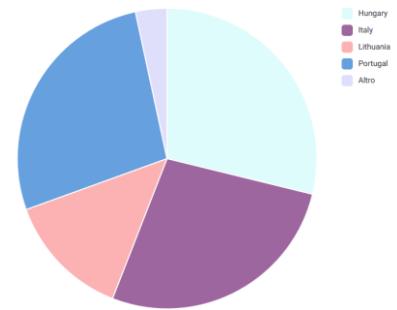




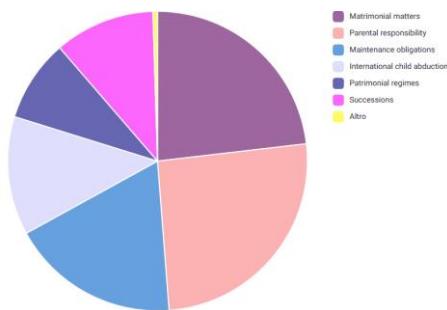
b) There were 89,83% female participants and 10,17% male.



c) Among the respondents, 28,81% were from Hungary, 27,12% from Italy, 13,56% from Lithuania, 27,12% from Portugal, one participant from France and one from Bulgaria.



d) Participants have been asked to indicate with which aspects of cross-border family matters they had (at least occasionally) dealt in their professional activity and they answered: 79,66% matrimonial matters, 88,14% parental responsibility, 62,71% maintenance obligations, 44,07% international child abduction, 30,51% patrimonial regimes, 37,29% successions, and one participant answered another issue.

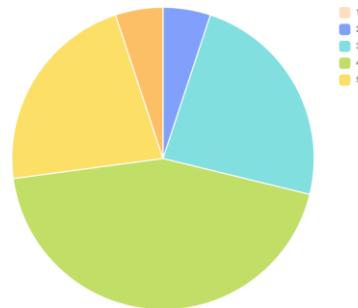


II) Follow-up on CLASS4EU training sessions

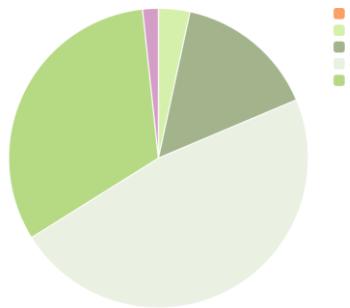
a) Participants have specified the following rates, ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied/low rate/not sufficient) to 5 (extremely satisfied/high rate/excellent), to evaluate their level of knowledge of European family law after attending any CLASS4EU training sessions with regard to the following aspects:



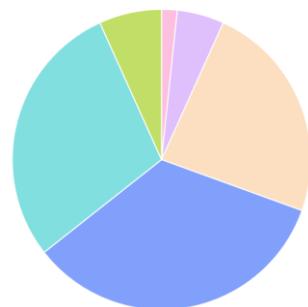
- Matrimonial matters: out of 56 responses, 23,21% rated 5, 46,43% rated 4, 25% rated 3 and 5,36% rated 2.



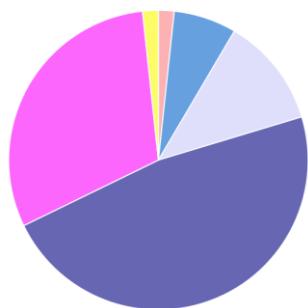
- Parental responsibility: out of 58 responses, 32,76% rated 5, 48,28% rated 4, 15,52% rated 3 and 3,45% rated 2.



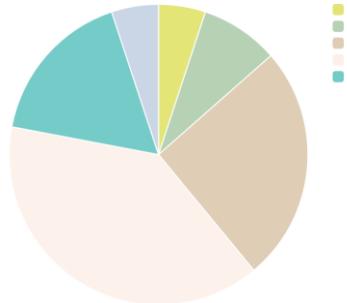
- Maintenance obligations: out of 55 responses, 30,91% rated 5, 36,36% rated 4, 25,45% rated 3, 5,45% rated 2 and 1,82% rated 1.



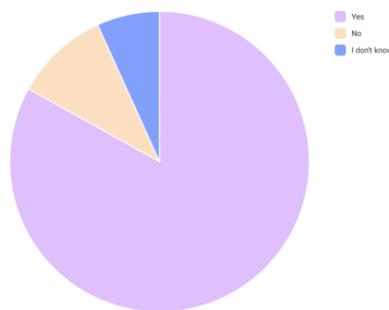
- International child abduction: out of 58 responses, 31,03% rated 5, 48,28% rated 4, 12,07% rated 3, 6,90% rated 2 and 1,72% rated 1.



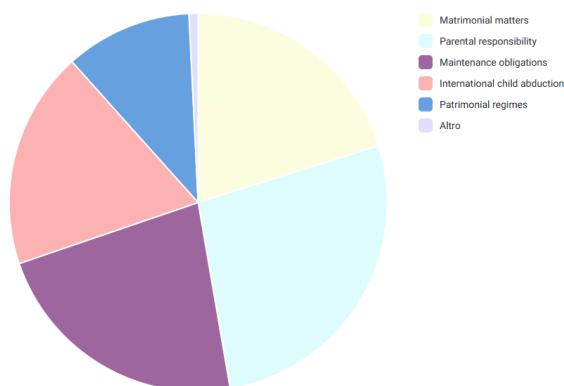
- Patrimonial regimes: out of 56 responses, 17,86% rated 5, 41,07% rated 4, 26,79% rated 3, 8,93% rated 2 and 5,36% rated 1.



- b) After attending any CLASS4EU training sessions, 83,05% of the participants declared that they have benefitted in their professional activity and daily practice from the knowledge acquired during the training sessions, while 6 participants answered "No" and four participants "I don't know".



- b.1) Among the affirmative answers, 44,07% related to matrimonial matters, 59,32% to parental responsibility, 49,15% to maintenance obligations, 40,68% to international child abduction, 23,73% to patrimonial regimes and one indicated "succession" in the section "other".

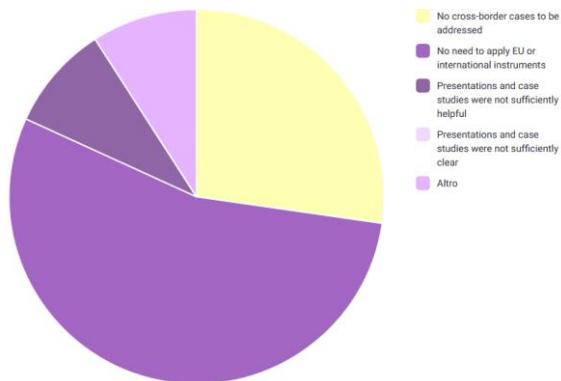


- b.2) Among the 11 participants who declared not to have benefitted from the knowledge acquired during the CLASS4EU training sessions, 5,08% specified that no cross-border cases were to be addressed, 10,17% indicated that there was no need to apply EU or international instruments, one pointed out that presentations and case studies were not sufficiently helpful,

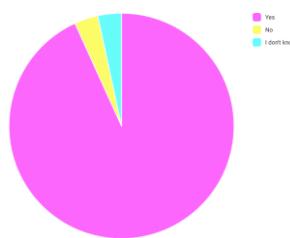


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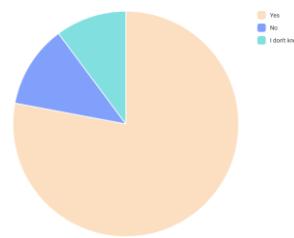
another one clarified that no situations occurred. However, no one based its answer on the fact that presentations and case studies were not sufficiently clear.



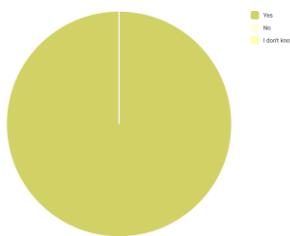
c) Out of 59 responses, 93,22% declared that the training provided sufficient guidance for the application of the specific EU or international legal instrument, whereas two participants indicated "No" and other two "I don't know".



d) Out of 59 responses, 77,97% declared that they have referred to the relevant presentation when addressing a cross-border family dispute in their daily practice, whereas 11,86% indicated "No" and 10,17% "I don't know".

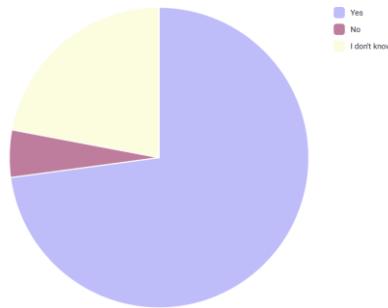


e) Out of 59 responses, all participants declared that the relevant presentation and case studies contributed to a clearer understanding of the operation of the specific EU or international legal instrument.





f) Out of 59 responses, 72,88% affirmed that training sessions with participants from different backgrounds (eg. lawyers/social service workers) could contribute to improve knowledge and awareness of the various aspects of international disputes in family matters, while 5,08% answered "No" and 13 participants didn't know.



f.1) Among the affirmative answers, the following 28 comments on the interaction among different categories of professionals involved in international family disputes have been provided:

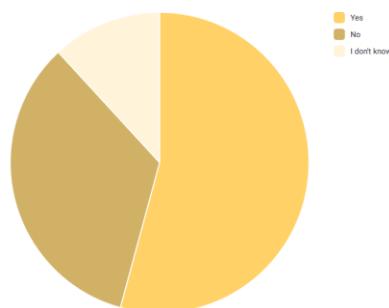
- The work developed between different professionals in international family disputes provide a broader perspective on the situations as well as better designed solutions that cover different areas of family intervention;
- the exchange of experiences with people from different areas of formation, as well as with people working on these themes contributes to a better practical vision of the theme;
- If not only the lawyer knows the rules, but also authorities and social workers, then the whole procedure is faster and cheaper for the customers, because we do not have to explain everything step by step;
- Lawyers, judges, police officers, psychologists and social workers should cooperate efficiently;
- To share experiences with different categories of professionals and lawyers from other countries was very important;
- They can share practical experiences, challenges, and opinions from different angles;
- Different categories of professionals have a different attitude and point of view and have to answer in their activities to different needs, so the interaction is helpful for a global approach of international family matters;
- It has given an insight into the legal representatives' approach and viewpoints and provided contacts for relevant support should there be a need of that;
- Interaction among different categories of professionals always help to see different points of view in approaching the same case;
- Interesting and stimulant;
- We can talk about cases in a fast form, and make clear all the opinions and facts - as a lawyer maybe I would only be at my client's part, but there is another party and an authority, that can help an agreement;
- I think that Italian social services are not so well-trained to deal with their role in the legal proceedings;
- There are different points of view to be considered in international cases: the lawyers know - or should know - the juridical rules and the civil service workers know - or should know - the feelings of all the case parties;
- Knowing rules and feelings can give more chances to find the best solution of the case and to transfer it in a god agreement, valid in Europe;
- It has been important to know various field of professional people involved about these topics: therefore, we can set up useful co-working network each other;
- Although I am not due to be involved as by my service (National Health Service), I learned and understood there are specific and several complicated regulations, involving namely European Law Courts and Lawyers;
- Multi-disciplinary approach is the key to find solutions that reflect the best interests of the child in cross-border family disputes. Every professional is important and can contribute with his/her knowledge and experience so that the child gets the best for his/her future;

- We usually do not know what is the procedure in a case in a different profession, that is why we do not understand each other that is usually an obstacle in the case;
- It was very useful, I could get to know other legal proceedings and child protective services;
- it is a good way to share different opinions and points of view;
- the interplay of a different categories of professionals is a core value of the training also because unusual in Italy;
- Facing different aspects of the same legal matters
- there wasn't so much interaction with social workers. I spoke with a social service worker in my group but she felt like the training was too much "legal oriented";
- Often lawyers and judges cannot have the full vision of the practical problems and executive measure application without referring to the other professionals involved in family matters at different stages - EU Regulations do not cover all the issues and are difficult to be coordinated;
- It has been a great opportunity to share experience with people working in other EU countries with a different background both as to law and culture;
- It was very enriching to hear various situations from lawyers from their point of view;
- Very useful experience, for broader view and also for making new contacts;
- It contributes to the application of transdisciplinary approach and enables to spot the systemic problems;
- For me, as a lawyer, representing individuals in cross border cases, and having not very much of the practice on the daily basis, was very interesting and a big benefit to exchange with child protection specialists of the views of various situations in different cases and how the child protection specialists see the particular case. So it was a very good experience to have such interaction;
- The interaction among all different professionals who daily deal with these type of situations should be considered from the very beginning when creating legislation. Sharing their different perspectives can only be beneficial for both them and the parties involved as the process would probably be more frictionless and in line with reality. Creating a system having each individual's expertise in mind and allowing them to effectively participate and collaborate towards a resolution would most definitely bring better and long term resolutions.

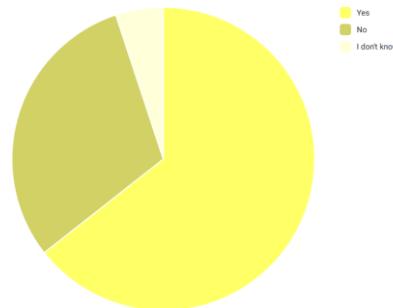
f.2) Among the negative answers, the following three comments have been provided:

- There was no real communication between the participants from different background since most participant were lawyers. A very few participants were actually social workers and the training sessions focused on cases with mainly court cases;
- I think the subject is quite difficult to study. Therefore, it is better to follow only the legal aspects;
- There were not many social workers participating the sessions that is why there was no real discussion among the different professionals.

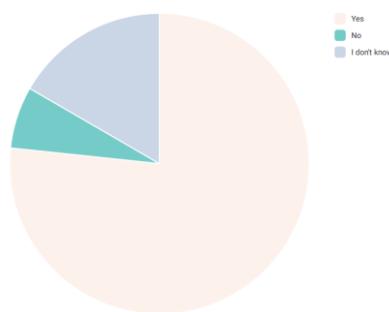
g) Out of 59 responses, 54,24% declared that they have considered to contact the Project team members to request for more information/clarification on certain topics, whereas 33,90% answered "No" and 11,86% "I don't know".



h) Out of 59 responses, 64,41% declared that they have thought / had the opportunity to contact any of the other trainees within their professional activity, while 30,51% answered “No” and three participants “I don’t know”.



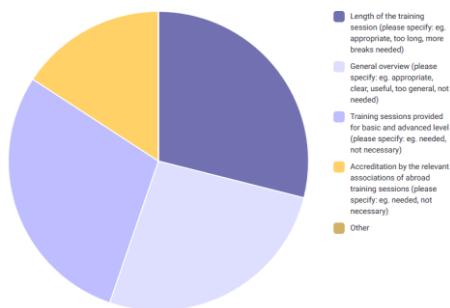
i) Out of 60 responses, 77,97% expressed that they consider valuable to build a network among the participants for professional purposes, while 6,78% answered “No” and 16,95% “I don’t know”.



i.1 e i.2) 38 participants provided their details in view of the creation of the “C.L.A.S.S.4EU Network”, and gave their consent to the publication of their data.

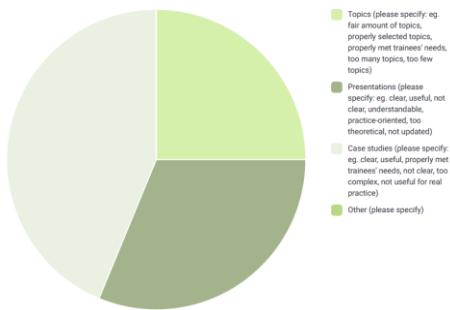
j) When asked to submit other comments or suggestions related to the organisation of the CLASS4EU training sessions, the following answers have been provided:

- with regard to the length of the training session: one answered “more breaks needed”, one “very overwhelming, a bit long”, 8 participants declared that the sessions were “appropriate”, “well done” and “were very useful”;
- from a general perspective, 10 participants positively evaluated the training as “appropriate”, “clear, useful”, “much appreciated”;
- as to training sessions provided for basic and advanced level, all responses expressed that the distinction is needed, useful and more effective;
- with regard to the accreditation by the relevant associations of training sessions held abroad, four participants deem it needed, while few others as not necessary.



k) When asked to submit other comments or suggestions related to the programme and contents of the CLASS4EU training sessions, the following answers have been provided:

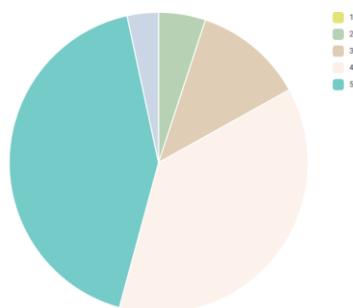
- as to the topics, among eight responses, one suggested that “successions” could be included, few others affirmed that there were too many topics, whereas the majority deemed the topics “properly selected”, “well organised” and “properly met training needs”;
- with regard to the presentations, among ten responses, one considered them “too theoretical”, while the majority deemed them “clear”, “understandable”, “practice-oriented” and “useful”;
- in relation to the case studies, among 14 responses, the majority deemed them “very useful”, “clear”, while two participants defined them “not clear, too complex, not real examples/cases”, another one specified that more time was needed.



III) Training experience and needs

a) Participants have specified the following rates, ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied/low rate/not sufficient) to 5 (extremely satisfied/high rate/excellent), to evaluate the extent to which training on European family law regarding the following topics is needed in their profession:

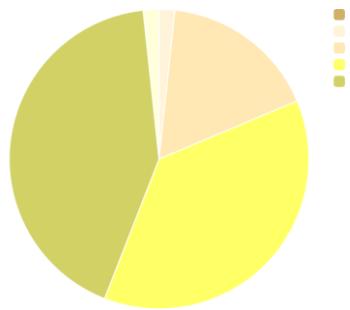
- Matrimonial matters: out of 57 responses, 43,86% rated 5, 38,60% rated 4, 12,28% rated 3 and 5,26% rated 2.



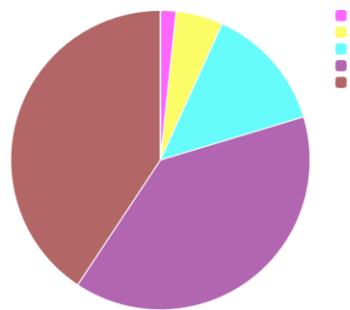


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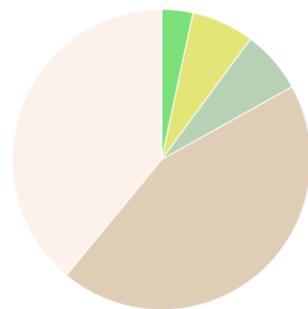
- Parental responsibility: out of 58 responses, 43,10% rated 5, 37,93% rated 4, 17,24% rated 3 and 1,72% rated 2.



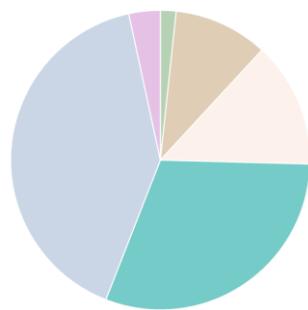
- Maintenance obligations: out of 59 responses, 40,68% rated 5, 38,98% rated 4, 13,56% rated 3, 5,08% rated 2 and 1,69% rated 1.



- International child abduction: out of 59 responses, 38,98% rated 5, 44,07% rated 4, 6,78% rated 3, 6,78% rated 2 and 3,39% rated 1.



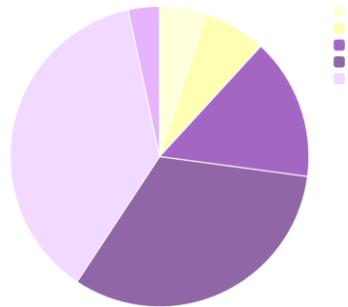
- Patrimonial regimes: out of 57 responses, 42,11% rated 5, 31,58% rated 4, 14,04% rated 3, 10,53% rated 2 and 1,75% rated 1.





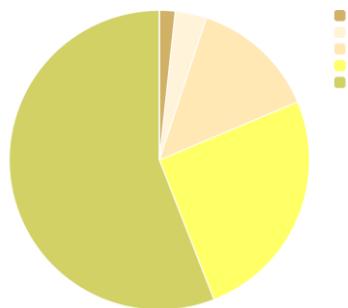
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- Successions: out of 57 responses, 38,60% rated 5, 33,33% rated 4, 15,79% rated 3, 7,02% rated 2 and 5,26% rated 1.

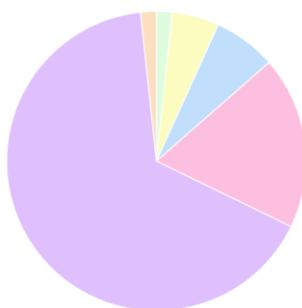


b) Participants have specified the following rates, ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied/low rate/not sufficient) to 5 (extremely satisfied/high rate/excellent), to evaluate the extent to which the following aspects should be addressed in a training session on European family law:

- Jurisdiction: out of 59 responses, 55,93% rated 5, 25,42% rated 4, 13,56% rated 3, 3,39% rated 2 and 1,69% rated 1.



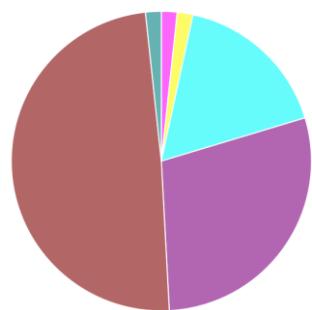
- Applicable law: out of 58 responses, 67,24% rated 5, 18,97% rated 4, 6,90% rated 3, 5,17% rated 2 and 1,72% rated 1.



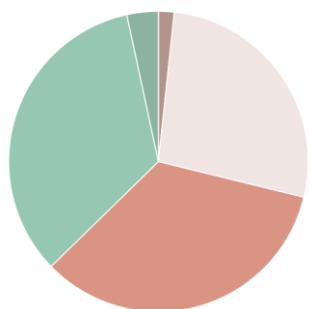
- Recognition and enforcement of decisions: out of 58 responses, 50% rated 5, 29,31% rated 4, 17,24% rated 3, 1,72% rated 2 and 1,72% rated 1.



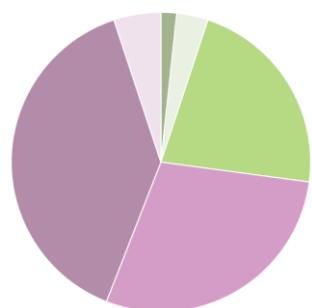
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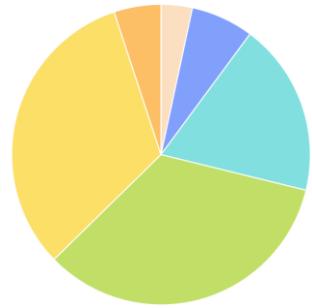
- Cooperation among central authorities: out of 57 responses, 35,09% rated 5, 35,09% rated 4, 28,07% rated 3, and 1,75% rated 2.



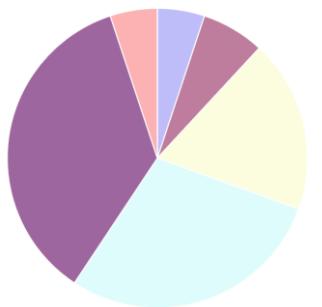
- Coordination of EU and international legal instruments: out of 56 responses, 41,07% rated 5, 30,36% rated 4, 23,21% rated 3, 3,57% rated 2 and 1,79% rated 1.



- Private divorces: out of 56 responses, 33,93% rated 5, 35,71% rated 4, 19,64% rated 3, 7,14% rated 2 and 3,57% rated 1.

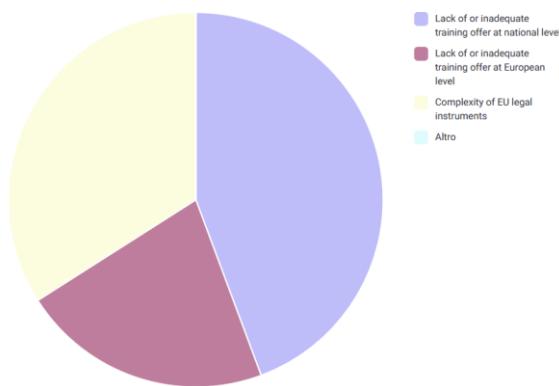


- Circulation of public acts and personal status: out of 56 responses, 37,50% rated 5, 30,36% rated 4, 19,64% rated 3, 7,14% rated 2 and 5,36% rated 1.

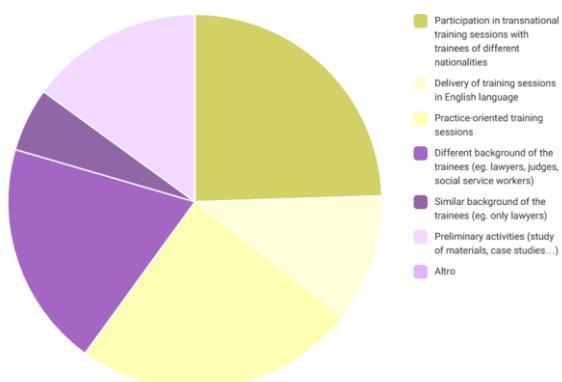


b.1) Moreover, one participant suggested to include the topic “custody and visiting rights arrangements and different regimes in the EU”.

c) Participants have specified the following reasons that may affect the knowledge of European family law: 72,88% lack of or inadequate training offer at national level; 35,59% lack of or inadequate training offer at European level; 55,93% complexity of EU legal instruments.



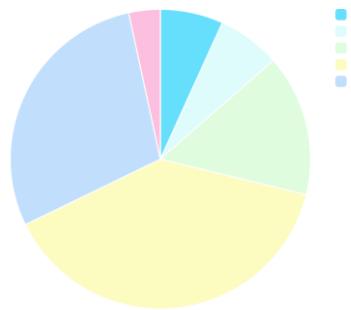
d) Participants have specified the following aspects could contribute to the development of professionals' knowledge and skills: 83,05% participation in transnational training sessions with trainees of different nationalities; 37,29% delivery of training sessions in English language; 83,05% practice-oriented training sessions; 66,10% different background of the trainees (e.g. lawyers, judges, social service workers); 18,64% similar background of the trainees (e.g. only lawyers); 50,85% preliminary activities (study of materials, case studies...).



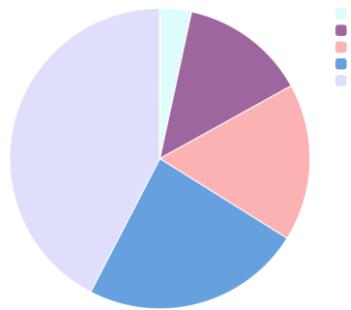


e) Participants have specified the following rates, ranging from 1 (extremely dissatisfied/low rate/not sufficient) to 5 (extremely satisfied/high rate/excellent), to evaluate the extent to which the following factors may affect the attendance at training sessions held abroad:

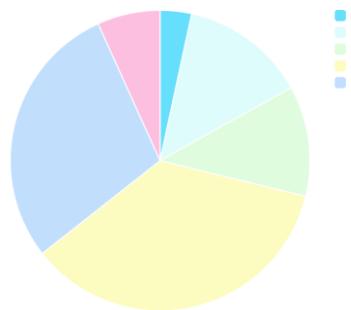
- Professional commitments: out of 57 responses, 29,82% rated 5, 40,35% rated 4, 15,79% rated 3, 7,02% rated 2 and 7,02% rated 1.



- Expenses: out of 59 responses, 42,37% rated 5, 23,73% rated 4, 16,95% rated 3, 13,56% rated 2 and 3,39% rated 1.



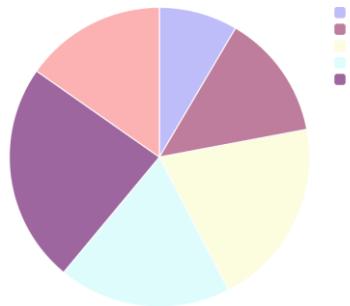
- Time: out of 55 responses, 30,91% rated 5, 38,18% rated 4, 12,73% rated 3, 14,55% rated 2 and 3,64% rated 1.



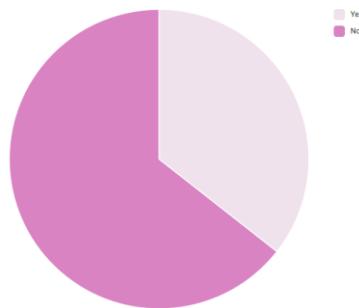
- Language: out of 55 responses, 10,91% rated 5, 27,27% rated 4, 29,09% rated 3, 14,55% rated 2 and 18,18% rated 1.



- No reimbursement: out of 50 responses, 28% rated 5, 22% rated 4, 24% rated 3, 16% rated 2 and 10% rated 1.

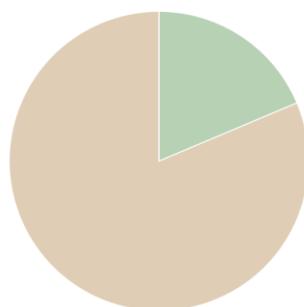


f) In addition to CLASS4EU training, 64,41% of 59 participants declared that in the past two years have not attended other training on European family law in their country of residence, whereas 21 participants did so.



f.1) The 21 participants indicated that they have at least attended other two training sessions, that lasted at least one or two days or took place weekly, and that this training was very useful for their professional activities.

g) Moreover, in addition to CLASS4EU training, 81,36% of 59 participants answered that in the past two years they have not attended other training on European family law at international level; while 11 participants did so.



g.1) The 11 participants affirmed that they attended at least one international training session, which at least lasted one day and that it was useful for their professional activities.

IV) Other comments

Some participants added few comments, that mainly expressed positive considerations especially with regard to the trainers and the organisation of the training sessions, and thanked for the training experience. However, one pointed out that there were not so many social service workers and another one that there should be more training on these topics.

Summarising conclusions

From the outcomes reported above some final considerations may be drawn in relation to the questionnaire itself, the training sessions, their organisation and contents, and the self-evaluation and benefit of the participants.

The number of the responses to the questionnaire that have been collected did not represent the total number of participants to the training sessions that took place in the two-year Project. Therefore, the feedback received can only partially contribute to provide an overall evaluation of the training sessions in a long-term perspective. In addition, only few persons having “social service” background took part and provided their opinions. In this regard, it must also be clarified that Partners found quite challenging and difficult reaching professionals working for social services who were interested in applying for transnational training sessions, which mainly regarded the legal application of the EU family law instruments. In any case, the social service attendees considered the sessions useful. Also, as emerges from other responses, legal practitioners deemed helpful the interdisciplinary dimension of the training, allowing participants to get informed and familiar with all aspects involved in cross-border family litigation.

With regard to self-evaluation and benefit from the courses organised by the CLASS4EU teams, participants expressed positive considerations since they declared that training presentations and case studies have been used or referred to in their daily professional activities after the sessions took place. It follows that the training contents proved to be useful after the sessions, and thus offered valuable contribution for practitioners addressing international family disputes.

The topics dealt with during the CLASS4EU training have been deemed appropriate and relevant, however some comments pointed out that they were too many and the course resulted too intensive. Moreover, even if the training has been considered practice-oriented by the majority of the participants, some cases would have required more time to be thoroughly examined. This means that the programme of the sessions was in general efficient and appreciated, but a few adjustments are needed.

Finally, the idea of creating a “CLASS4EU Network” has been positively evaluated and participants agreed to provide their contact details for their interaction in professional activities.

In light of the above, CLASS4EU Partners express a general enthusiastic opinion on the organisation of all Project activities and in particular the training sessions, and commit to establish the “CLASS4EU Network”, in order to grant a long lasting impact of the Project results. The implementation of such an objective is also based on the dissemination of the “Train-the-Trainers Tool”, which is the final output elaborated by all Partners as guidance for the application of the relevant legal instruments in intra-EU cross-border family proceedings.