



Partnership



UNIVERSITÀ
di **VERONA**
Dipartimento
di **SCIENZE GIURIDICHE**



Universidade do Minho
Escola de Direito



ELTE LAW
FACULTY OF LAW



LIETUVOS
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Project Evaluation

Alessandra Bianca
Professional Evaluator

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The content of this document represents the views of the evaluator only and is her sole responsibility. The EC does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains

Background

Origin of the Project

1 January 2018 > UNIVR starts implementing the Project to last 24 months and end on 31 December 2019 together with:

4 co-beneficiary partners

The Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca (UNIMIB-IT), the Universidade Do Minho (UMINHO-PO), the Lietuvos Teises Institutas (TEISE-LI), the Eotvos Lorand Tudomanyegyetem (ELTE-HU)

...and 5 associate partners

AIIA (International Association of Young Lawyers, based in Brussels), AIGA (Italian Association of Young Lawyers), AIAF (Italian Association of Family Lawyers), the Lithuanian Bar Association, and ISS (International Social Service, based in Geneva)

Project objectives

General Objectives of the Project

To increase lawyers and social service staff knowledge of Regulation No 2201/2203 in connection with other EU Regulations and Conventions on family law, developing a common expertise between these interrelated categories especially when the protection of children is at stake

Specific Objectives of the Project

- (a) identifying difficulties in applying EU family Regulations
- (b) improving knowledge on EU Regulations and their interplay, thus facilitating dialogue between practitioners from different countries
- (c) developing a common expertise and promoting harmonization of principles, standards and methodology according to the specificity of cross-border relations
- (d) fostering EU net-building among practitioners of different MS
- (e) identifying paths that allow for further improvement of such effectiveness, thus also contributing towards their correct and consistent implementation.

Planned activities

Analytical and mutual learning activities – with exchange of good practices and cooperation:

- target groups' training needs assessment
- preparing and testing the training content during 4 preliminary transnational sessions on different topics all related with Brussels IIa Regulation
- drafting a comparative glossary of legal terminology
- improving training content for the delivery of 4 final transnational sessions on a larger scale
- evaluating training contents and methodology
- uploading training materials on the Project website as ready-to-use materials
- podcasts and minutes of the training sessions
- creating 1 train-the-trainers tool
- on-going dissemination.

Expected outputs and results

Expected outputs are:

- 4 packages of training materials and 1 comparative glossary of legal terminology
- 8 cross-border training sessions (in English)
- 2 questionnaires for short and long-term training evaluation
- 1 train-the-trainers tool in English and other EU languages
- 1 train-the-trainers tool presentation event
- 6 reports (1 at the end of the WP3, 1 in WP4, 1 at the end of the Project, 2 by the external evaluator, 1 on the long-term evaluation)
- website and social network profiles

The **expected results** of the Project are > increased knowledge of lawyers and social services on EU relevant legislation and strengthened abilities in collaborating with other categories of professionals also from other countries.

The project work-packages

- ***WP1 Management and Coordination of the Project***
ensured by UNIVR
- ***WP2 Drafting the training content***
Ensured by UNIMIB
- ***WP3 Testing and improving the training***
Ensured by TEISE
- ***WP4 Delivery of the training***
Ensured by ELTE
- ***WP5 Preparation of the ToT tool and ongoing dissemination***
Ensured by UNIVR

Relevance of the evaluation exercise

Evaluating performance and results is very important for the European Commission because:

- It measures, with the use of specific tools and criteria, quality and impact of action's technical implementation and preliminary results in an objective manner
and
- It provides space for improvement in line with set objectives and expected results.

Evaluation under the project

- **The Project is assessed internally by UNIVR** including monitoring and final internal evaluation of the respect of time schedule and objectives
- The **external evaluation** is granted by the external professional evaluator mandated under WP3 and WP5 to provide Mid-Term (after the first year) and Final (at the end of the project) Evaluation Reports on Project technical implementation and results, applying the five **EC-DAC criteria**, also considering **EU added value** and **EU visibility**. Conclusions and recommendations are provided
- **The evaluator** was requested to attend at least one event and base the evaluation on information delivered by the Coordinator via e-mail summaries, reports, training materials, information posted on the Project's Website, social networks pages as well as in line with the funding Programme's priorities and objectives. She attended three events instead.
- The **Mid-Term Report** was based on information collected by the evaluator attending training sessions delivered in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 17 and 18 September 2018. The evaluator attended also the session in Milan that is evaluated in the Final Report.

Technical part of the evaluation 1

This **Mid-Term Evaluation Report** assessed the conceiving, development, implementation and results of the **following activities under WP2 and WP3**, undertaken between 1 January 2018 and 12 December 2018, also suggesting improvement were required:

- short-term evaluation questionnaire
- training package
- testing the training sessions (Vilnius 17/18 September 2018; Braga 26/27 November 2018)

The Mid-Term Report did not cover any assessment of the expenditures related to Project activities that were estimated in the budget allocated to the partners.

It did not cover in detail the scientific content of the training sessions, to which it mainly applied the DAC/EC evaluation criteria, even though in a more detailed manner than under the evaluation of the Project management activities and outputs.

Technical part of the evaluation 2

Other implemented activities, comprising the management and coordination phases of the Project under WP1, leading to the following outputs were herewith also generally considered and assessed:

Management phase

- Consortium Agreement
- Project website
- Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Promotion of the Project
- Ethical Protocol
- Overall monitoring and internal evaluation

Coordination phase

- Workplan and timeline
- Kick-off meeting among partners
- 2 Coordination meetings
- 3 Project meetings

MID-TERM EVALUATION RESULTS



Short-term evaluation questionnaire

In order **to ensure coherent and consistent approach** to internal and external evaluation of national exchange events, Project partners adopted following tool:

- one version of satisfaction survey questionnaire for all
- developed around 2 main sections and 35 questions
- applied for the first time at the seminar of Vilnius

The questions were subdivided into 8 subgroups:

Section 1 > Background

- I. Organisation and Logistics of the event
- II. Overall evaluation of the training
- III. Trainers
- IV. Case studies
- V. Self-evaluation and benefit

Section 2 > Specific questions related to each topic

- VII. Matrimonial matters
- VIII. Maintenance obligations

Outcomes of short-term questionnaire

- **Effectively** organised
- **Relevant** to the needs, balanced and complete
- The identification of professional category and country of origin measured participation of lawyers and social workers covering different EU Member States ensuring **EU added value**
- Questions addressed **preliminary impact and sustainability**
- **A longer-term evaluation questionnaire** (measuring full impact) was to be developed after the test seminars were completed and the final training sessions elaborated
- **EU visibility** was implemented in all phases of development and dissemination of the questionnaire.

Outcomes of training package

- **Relevant** to target group's needs and Project objectives, as well as EC priorities under the Justice Programme
- Well-planned, well-articulated, and structured in a rather **effective and efficient** manner
- **Complete** both for subjects addressed and modality of analysis of different training components
- There was a **theoretical** part and a more **practical** part, satisfying the need for basic knowledge of law and its application and for more concrete experience in the field, with reference to real cases tackled with existing legislation
- Preliminary **impact and sustainability** to be ensured later on
- **EU added value and EU visibility** granted

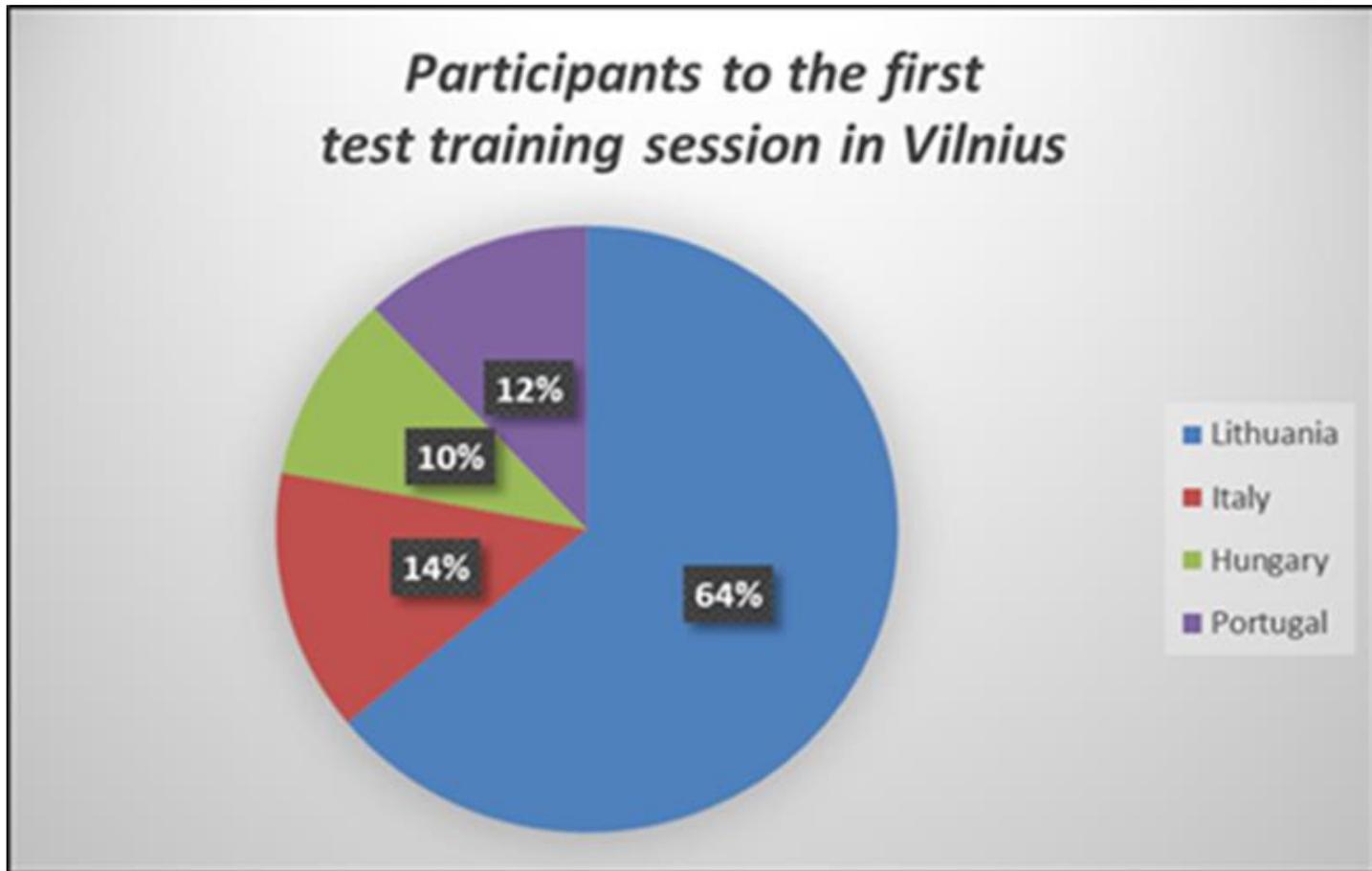
Test-the training sessions 1&2 in Vilnius (Lithuania)

- Held on 17 and 18 September 2018 for 2daysx6h each
- Focused on matrimonial matters (Day 1) and cross-border divorce and maintenance obligations (Day 2)
- TEISE organized and delivered it
- 51 participants, 40 trainees, 32 answered the questionnaire
- Attended by the evaluator

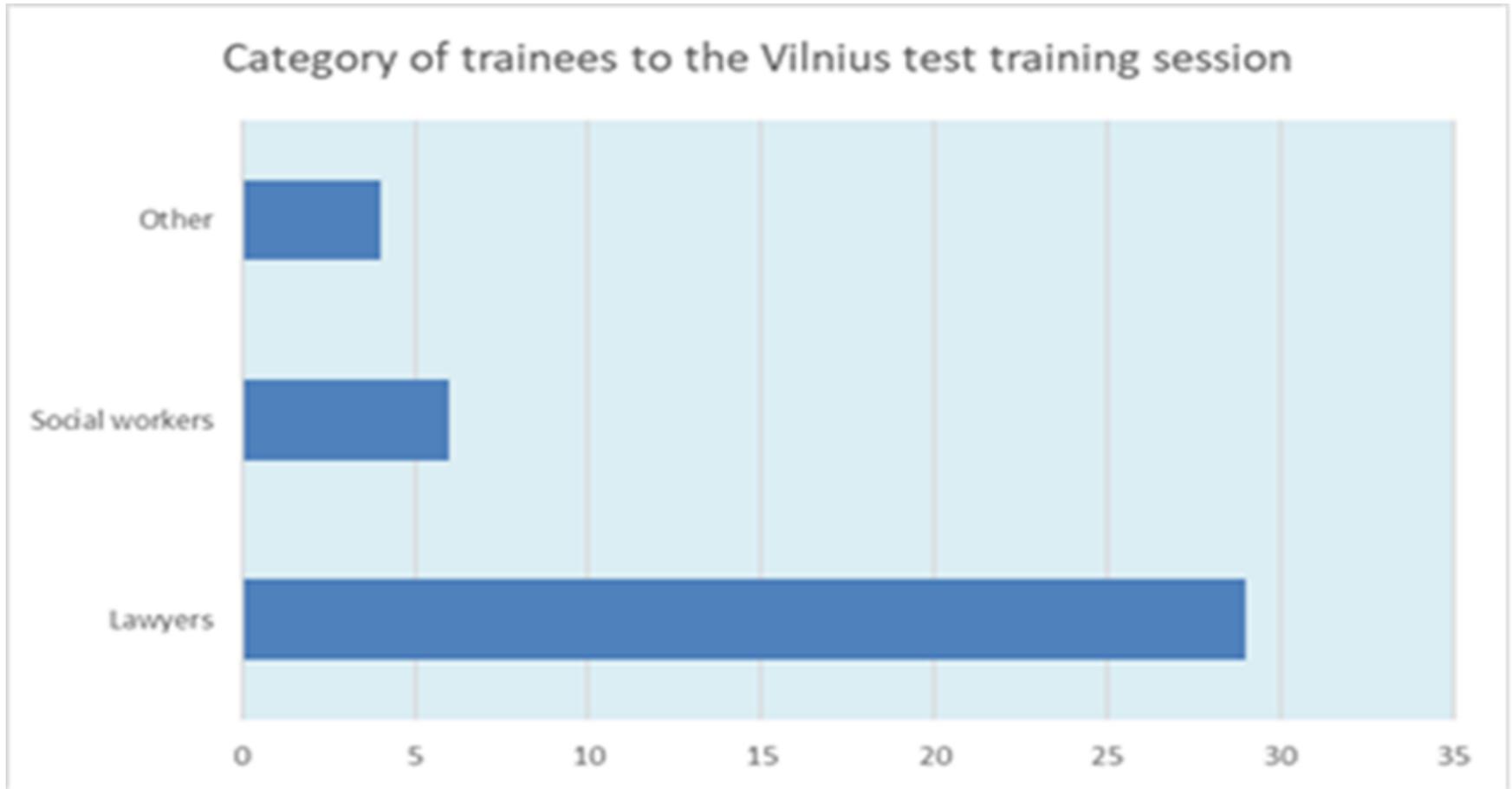
***Note:** it resulted that participants would have appreciated more interaction among the different categories in order to share experience in different countries in small groups.*

The evaluator supported this view and already suggested in Vilnius to include some workshop-type sessions in future training

Some figures on Vilnius (countries)



Some figures on Vilnius (categories)

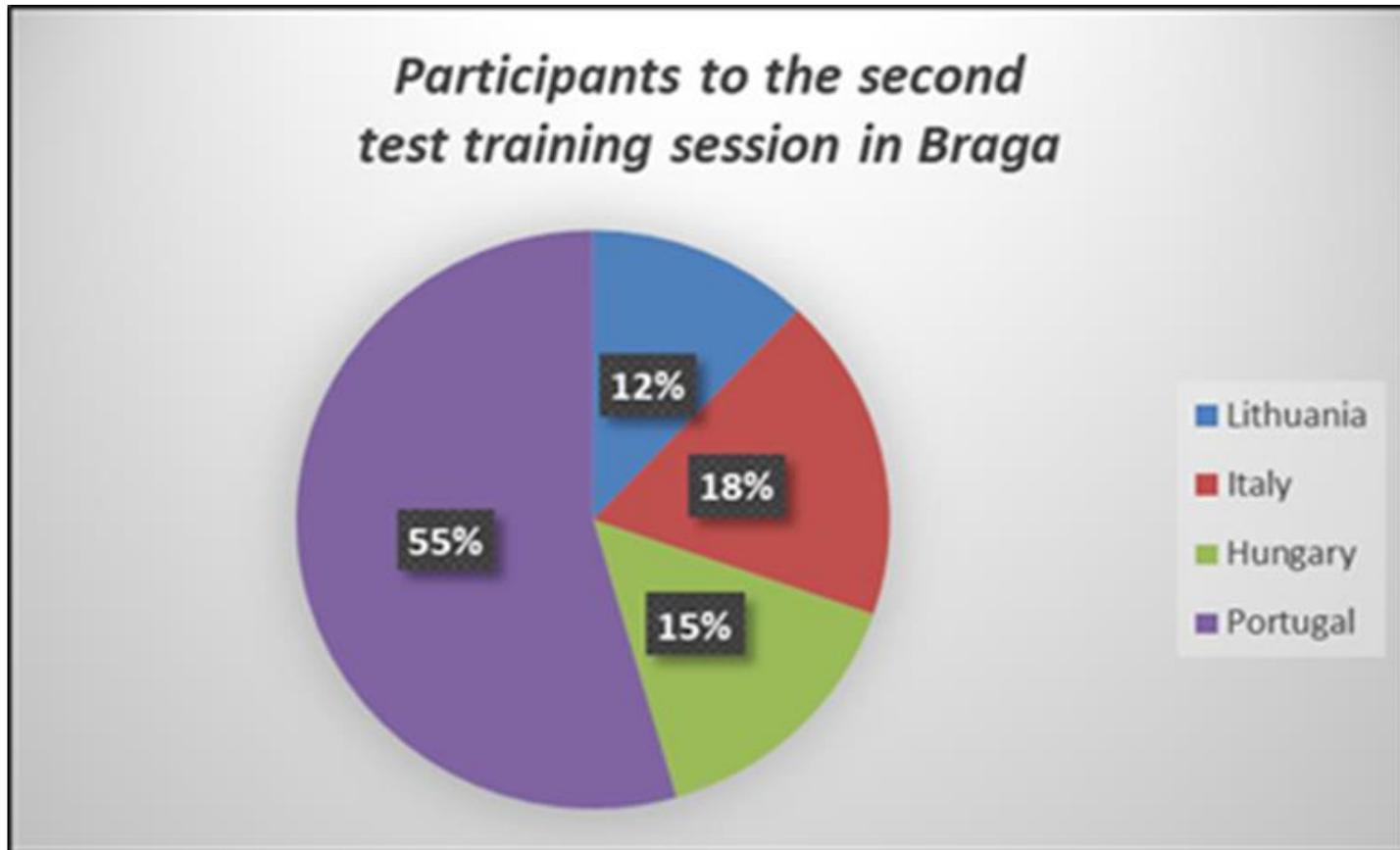


Test-the-training sessions 3&4 in Braga (Portugal)

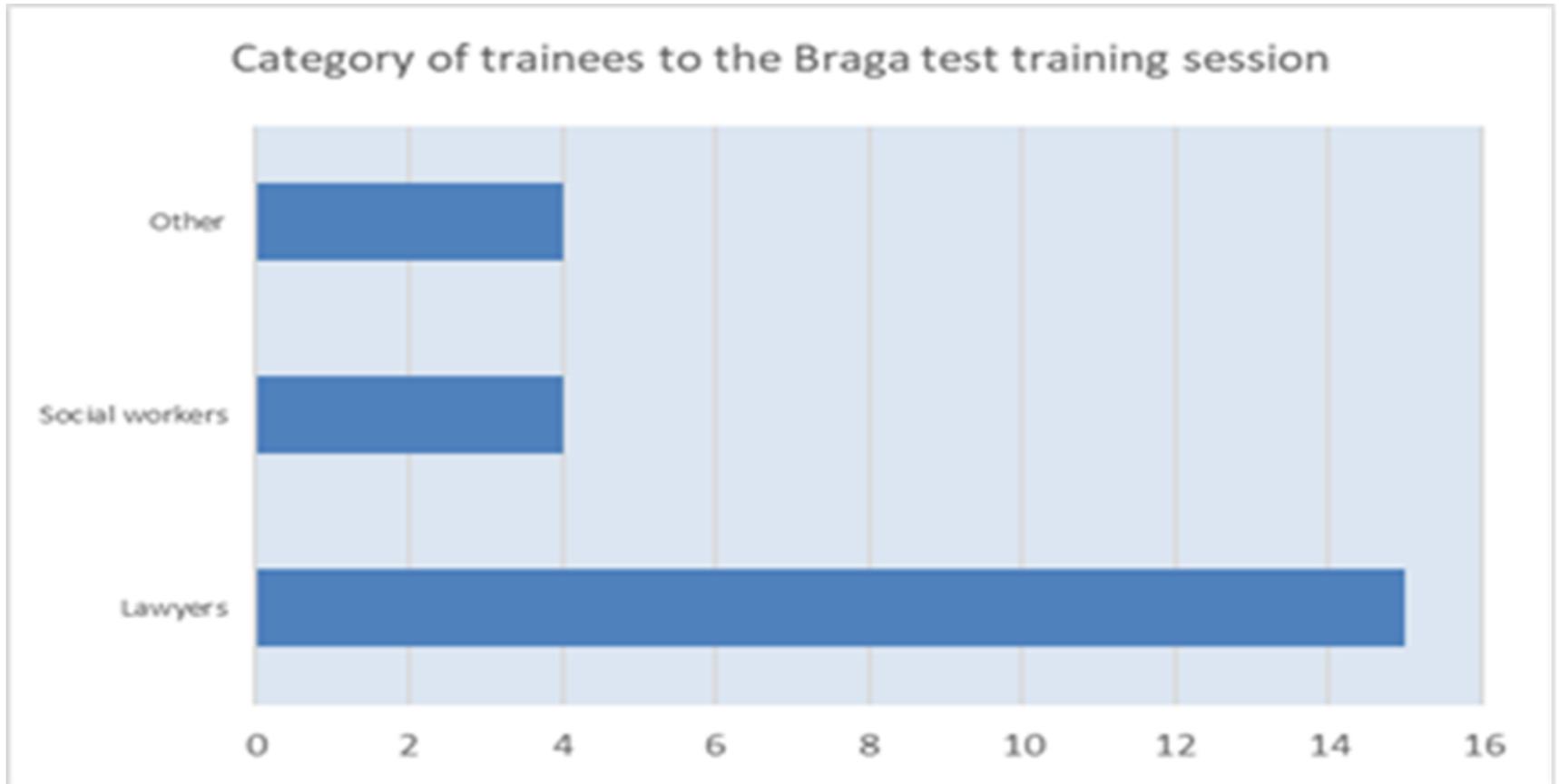
- Held on 26 and 27 November 2018 for 2daysx6h each
- Focused on Parental Responsibility (Day 1) and International Child Abduction (Day 2)
- UMINHO organised and delivered it
- 33 participants, 23 trainees, 23 answered the questionnaire
- Not attended by the evaluator

Note: *Participation of social service staff was rather limited also in Braga. Recommendations were the same as in Vilnius.*

Some figures on Braga (countries)



Some figures on Braga (categories)



Test-the-training sessions conclusions

- **Proved to be a valuable experience for all participants** who profited of some high-quality training on EU family law and a comprehensive training package
- **Project partners successfully delivered what planned** in an overall relevant, effective, efficient and sustainable manner, also providing for preliminary positive impact and fully satisfying EU visibility and added value

The evaluator flagged **some good practices for future delivery of international training on EU law:**

- to provide comprehensive training package disseminated at the event - including power point slides of presentations in English;
- to respect the geographic distribution of participants - including speakers from different EU partner countries;
- to successfully deliver an ambitious programme from a scientific and a management point of view
- to produce a mailing lists of participants for future networking.

...and recommendations

- ***Provide more practice-oriented approach*** - including workshop-type activities, practical serious games, sharing videos on simulation of cases, Q&A sessions and planned debate, round table discussions - to be indicated in the Programme - **allowing for more opportunities of exchange and analysis** on areas of interest raised during the training
- ***Ensure the presence of more social workers*** at the training sessions and invest more time and efforts in setting structured and regular exchange mechanisms among target categories outside the training sessions, maybe with social networks
- ***Add the disclaimer*** to all published/disseminated documents for EU visibility rules: *“The content of this document represents the views of the authors only and it is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for the use that may be made of the information it contains”*.

Some considerations on Project management and coordination (M&C)

- *M&C run smoothly, effectively and efficiently*
- *Related outputs reached expected levels*
- *They constitute a valuable “connecting factor” in the Project, where relations among partners run smoothly, engagements are fulfilled, and roles respected by all*
- *Internal procedures are clearly defined, coherently and constantly applied*
- *Outputs proved to be well-planned, detailed and useful*
- *Better to have Reports and Materials published on the Project website and social networks could be used more actively as a platform for effective and efficient exchange among the target group on EU family law issues.*

Overall conclusions

- General and specific Project's objectives were satisfied in line with the state of Project implementation under evaluation
- Valuable results were available to build on during the second phase of implementation
- The Coordinator ensures constant presence, input and monitoring over Project activities, granting gradual fulfillment of what promised to the EC.



The evaluator sees that:

most recommendations – that were possible to follow at the stage of project implementation - have already been taken up by the partners for which they are praised before the EC



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For any additional information please consult the Mid-Term Evaluation Report from which the pie charts and data were extrapolated or contact:

Ms. Alessandra Bianca

Professional Evaluator

alessandrabianca@hotmail.com

Tel. 334 283 7934