



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO – BICOCCA  
Centro Studi Dipartimentale  
"Diritto e Società Plurale - Law and Pluralism" (BiLap)  
Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo n. 1  
20126 - Milano



## BILAP REPORT AT 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE

The BiLap (Bicocca Law and pluralism) Centre belongs to the project "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza 2018-2022" financed by Ministerial Grant according to the law n. 232/2016.

The Centre intends to promote legal research and to spread knowledge about the issues related to the management of conflicts and diversities existing inside multicultural and multifaith democracies.

The Centre, in the pursuit of its aims, is supported by an Observatory which is in charge of the production, promotion and diffusion of knowledge about "Law and Pluralism".

Halfway through the project, we thought to illustrate to our affiliates the activities carried out by the BiLap Centre till June 2020 in the following fields:

1. Infrastructure
2. Recruitment
3. Highly qualified didactic activities
4. Research

Due to the Covid 19 health emergency that has affected Italy and in particular Lombardy region, from 24 February 2020 the BiLap Centre has continued its activities by remote according to its internal schedule. Obviously, some activities have been understandably suspended or delayed but in general we can say that most of the activities were carried out as per original project.

### 1. Infrastructure

The activity of 2018 and 2019 was primarily aimed at the creation of the BiLap Centre headquarters. The project team has identified an area near the School of Law and realized three offices and a multimedia meeting room equipped with all types of computerization.

The offices house the administrative staff recruited on the project, the fellows hosted at the Centre and the people working at the Observatory.

Two other important infrastructures have been realized thanks to the project: the Moot Court room and the Graduation Hall.

The Moot court room is a faithful reproduction of a real courtroom. It wants to respond to the need for innovative teaching methods (competitive seminars, legal clinics, process simulations, mediations) capable of actively involving students, who will thus learn essential techniques for their future and their professional success.

The Graduation Hall has been totally renovated with the remaking of the floor, the replacement of the radiators, the modernization of heating and electrical systems and the replacement of furnishings. In the same room, in the second half of 2020 it will also be fixed a new commission table equipped with all types of computerization and new seats for the whole hall.

## 2. Recruitment

Within the end of 2020 all the recruiting actions foreseen by the project will end.

In order to give the Centre an internationalistic profile and to allow the activation of a new course of study in "Law and Pluralism", the School of Law, thanks to the project, has strengthened the teaching staff with the recruitment of a full professor, an associate professor and 2 researchers. Within this year the selection procedures will be completed with the recruiting of 3 new full professors and a researcher. The scientific disciplinary sectors involved in the recruitments are in particular the internationalistic and the constitutionalist ones, mostly involved in pluralism issues in various capacities. Also, two new administrative people have been recruited in the project, with the goal of include staff with functional skills for the realization of the project (knowledge and computer skills, spoken and written English language, management and reporting. of national and EU projects, knowledge of the principles of economic and financial accounting).

## 3. Highly qualified didactic activities

The Highly qualified didactic activities include three main areas:

- The interdisciplinary legal PhD curriculum in English "Law and Pluralism", that adds to the four already existing curricula of the School of Law
- The Fellowship Junior and Senior Program
- The Visiting outgoing and incoming Program

About the doctoral programme, the School of Law launched the new interdisciplinary legal doctoral curriculum "Law and Pluralism" within the PhD course in Legal Sciences. The activation of this curriculum led to the assignment of 4 PhD scholarships (one intended for foreigners) financed thanks to the project. We have currently awarded 8 doctoral scholarships for the first two years and in September 2020 there will be the selection procedures for the new scholarships.

Another important step in this area is the international doctoral agreement signed in March 2020 with the Union University of Belgrade (Serbia) which will encourage the exchange of students and allow to obtain a double degree.

As for the Fellowships, in 2019 the BiLap Centre hosted the first four fellows who spent two months each at the Centre. They are:

- Valentina Faggiani - Universidad de Granada  
With the research project: "The "substantial citizenship": a comparative approach between Spain and Italy";
- Natti Perelman - Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
With the research project "Freedom of Expression and the Desecration of Flags and Religious Books";
- Anna Labedzka - City, University of London  
With the research project: "Democratic crisis of European Union. Could mechanism of internal conditionality be an answer? A contribution to the ongoing debate on the rise of illiberal regimes in the European Union";
- Uladzislau Belavusau - T.M.C. Asser Institute, Amsterdam University  
With the research project: "Memory Laws and Fundamental Rights in the Council of Europe, EU and CEE".

In 2020 we originally planned to host at the Centre 3 Junior and 3 Senior Fellows but unfortunately, due to the COVID emergency, only Prof. Lucas Lixinski of the University of New South Wales Sydney (Australia) could spend two months at the Centre, from 20 January 2020 to 20 March 2020.

The other Fellows scheduled for 2020

- Dr. Ana Bobić, Hertie of the School of Governance Berlin (Germany);
- Dr. Wojciech Brzozowski, University of Warsaw (Poland);
- Dr. Kyriaki Pavlidou, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany);
- Prof. David Kretzmer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel);
- Prof. Athanasios Psygkas, University of Bristol (United Kingdom);

couldn't come and their research activity periods will be scheduled again once the medical emergency will end.

In spite of this, the Scientific Committee and the administrative staff of the BiLap centre never stop communicating with the above Fellows 2020 in order to allow reorganization and resumption of activities as soon as possible.

Obviously, always because of the COVID emergency, it was not possible to carry out any other visiting activity at the Centre, neither incoming nor outgoing

During these first years of the project, the BiLap Centre organized various seminars involving the fellows present at the Centre. In June 2020 an important international workshop was planned with the main purpose to launch the Observatory's database (see below) and to explore the possibility of new cooperations with other centres with similar research interests, but it has been cancelled waiting to be rescheduled it in 2021 when the emergency will be finished.

#### 4. Research

The research activity of the BiLap Centre has focused in particular on the construction of the Law and Pluralism Observatory's database.

The Observatory aims to monitor the legal trends and developments taking place in pluralistic societies. It has a Database, which collects and catalogues the most relevant legislative and jurisprudential sources in the matter. In this respect, the Database collects firstly the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union, and, secondly, the decisions issued by national constitutional and supreme courts. These resources, which are made freely available to the scientific community and civil society, provide a useful tool for the promotion of policies and practices of civil coexistence, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

The activity of research, cataloguing, translation and maximization has been continued remotely under the constant supervision of the Scientific Committee and the Observatory's website is now fully operational and usable from the end of June 2020 at the following link:

<https://www.lawpluralism.unimib.it/en>

All the information about the BiLap Centre are available at the following link:

<https://giurisprudenza.unimib.it/en/research/department-excellence/bicocca-law-and-pluralism-centre>

Milan, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Loredana Garlati