

Brussels, Monday 19 June 2017

Dear EULETAns,

Midsummer greetings to all of you!

Our **EULETA Newsbrief – Summer 2017** will fill you in on:

- **EULETA 2017 Workshop** and **Special New Members' Promotion!!!**
- **Białystok Legal English Centre 3rd International Conference, 8-9 June 2017 – EULETA was there!**
- **Invitation: Would YOU host the EULETA 2018 Conference?**

EULETA Workshop: Saturday 23/09/2017, Brno, Czech Republic
One of the most vibrant language-teaching hubs in Central Europe!



Across Europe, Eurasia and the world, **EULETA** is *the* dynamic interface between English for Legal Purposes and the Law. This year's workshop will focus on *Enhancement of Writing Skills in Legal Contexts*

Saturday 23 September 2017: Brno, Czech Republic. The **EULETA 2017 Workshop** will be held at Masaryk University Language Centre thanks to our fellow **EULETAns**, the dedicated ELP team at MU Language Centre/Law Faculty, Komenského nám. 2, 602 00 Brno: <https://www.cjv.muni.cz/en/>

Deadline for Receipt of abstracts: 15 July 2017; Registration closes 15 August 2017

For information about the event, venue, travel to and from Brno, and reduced-rate accommodation:

www.euleta.org

***** Special New Members' Promotion:** a year's membership will be offered **FREE** to all presenters new to **EULETA** whose abstracts are accepted and who register for the **EULETA 2017 Workshop!** ***

Language & Law – Traditions, Trends and Perspectives The Białystok Legal English Centre – EULETA was there!



Third international conference
LANGUAGE AND LAW – TRADITIONS, TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

The Białystok Legal English Centre
Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, Poland 8th - 9th June 2017

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EULETA was out in force at the third International *Language and Law* Conference hosted and organised by the **Legal English Centre at the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok** and notably by our **EULETA Board** officer, Halina Sierocka and her team in the wonderful region of Podlaskie.

The high-profile keynote speakers set the tone with extremely engaging lectures pertinent to our field: Prof. **Vijay Bhatia**'s talk on *Reconceptualising teaching of legal communication: Insights from Critical Genre Theory* helped to illustrate how a crucial feature of the ELP teacher's role – through raising the awareness and practice of multiple genre types – is to narrow the gap between "academy" and "workplace" by demystifying professional practice and teaching students to "think like a lawyer". English for Legal Purposes teachers, argues Bhatia, are masters of navigating students through genres and preparing them for the interdiscursive nature of legal discourse, and are thus able to bypass the "content" of the discipline (in our case, Law) without detriment to the teaching and learning of the core subject matter.

Prof. **Maurizio Gotti**'s presentation on *Globalising trends and discursive changes in the legal field* took listeners on a fascinating journey through the culture-bound aspects of legal concepts and hence terminology, with a particular focus on the differences of application in international arbitration practices depending on the cultural norms of the jurisdiction concerned. "Flexibility" was the key word as it was demonstrated that each system has to contend with variations in the language[s] used, specificities of legal systems, and socio-political factors, as well as differences in target readership and cultural norms. We were given an enticing glimpse into the Chinese situation, said to use a legal language that has been found more vague and ambiguous than other traditions in arbitration cases. However, perhaps more remarkable was the comparison between Western and Asian traditions, where the latter focuses on conciliation in contrast to litigation, rooted in the Confucian philosophy of harmony and compromise and the terms "li" and "fa",

¹ Photo courtesy of Jean-Luc Delli (*Lawbility*, Zurich).

which sum up the spirit of Chinese law (adoption and adaptation), such that mediation between convicted murderers and victims' families is now being used in criminal cases where the death penalty is involved.

Dr. **John Olsson** kicked off the second day of the conference with a talk on *Forensic language and the unknown* revealing a whole unknown field to many of those present, that of **Forensic linguistics**. Olsson debunked the myth that every individual has a fixed "idiolect" to show that we do, in fact, move between varying idiolects continuously, depending on our age, gender, ethnicity, institution or occupation, native-speaker status: context is everything and the way we speak modifies as we move through environments and social groups. What happens when a speaker makes language choices? It is "a consequence of a speaker's attempt to construct an identity appropriate to the context of a given interaction" (Moore, E. 2004). This idea was applied to the language choices made by suspects in criminal cases, where the role of the forensic linguist is to analyse – unbiased, for a jury – whatever language matter may be available, be it text messages, business letters, police/suspect statements, or suicide notes to uncover the ploys of imitation, disguise and fraud used by criminals.

With the forty-odd presenters and many more conference delegates hailing from every part of the globe, the range and depth of presentation topics was eclectic and impressive and stimulated lively debate on the continuously evolving nature and promising future of our multifaceted and ever-growing field of activity. Several members of the **EULETA Board** were at the conference while many **EULETA members** actively participated by giving papers and chairing several of the parallel sessions. **Compliments to Białystok Legal English Centre for the excellent organisation!**

Check out photos and other news about the event on **EULETA's Facebook** and **LinkedIn** pages.

Would **YOU** host the **EULETA 2018 Conference**?

EULETA 2018 Conference: Submit your bids to host it!

EULETA invites its members to finalise bids to host the EULETA 2018 Conference

The **EULETA Conference** takes place over a weekend in mid-late September, starting with an **informal networking event on Friday evening**; a **day-and-a-half of conference activities** (plenary sessions, networking tea/coffee breaks, parallel presentations, book and publishers stands, and the **EULETA AGM**); a **networking lunch on Saturday and Sunday**; and a **cultural/social event on the Saturday night**. The **EULETA Conference** usually wraps up business on the Sunday, just after lunch, when delegates head for home (or the beach!).

The **EULETA Board** will assess candidate venues and make an announcement on the chosen location for the **EULETA 2018 Conference** at the **AGM** to be held at the **EULETA 2017 Workshop** on 23/09/2017, in Brno.

In order to consider serious bids, we invite you to please think about the following:

1. **Attendees:** We aim for a minimum of 70 and ideally around **100 attendees**;
2. **Dates:** a weekend in **mid to late September**, from **Friday 17.00 to Sunday** early afternoon;
3. **Pre-Conference registration & payment**, call for papers and **communications** organised by **EULETA**;
4. **What EULETA requires from the host organiser:**
 - a. **One major conference room** for plenary sessions; 4 smaller rooms (latter not needed on Friday);
 - b. **Coordination of catering services**, Friday evening through to Sunday lunch;
 - c. **One locally-based coordinator** and support team (e.g. 4-6 students) throughout the weekend;
 - d. **Potential for sponsorship**, either from within your institution or local/national organisations.

Get in touch if you wish to host our **EULETA 2018 Conference! contact@euleta.org**

Get involved more widely with **EULETA – submit ideas to the **EULETA Board!****

Ongoing working groups in the following areas:

- *The future **EULETA Legal English exam** (post-ILEC)*
- *Finalising the design of a **EULETA e-journal***
- *Widening the concept of **EULETA Study trips***
- *Developing **EULETA Teacher-training materials***
- *Your idea... [HERE!](#)*

contact@euleta.org

Looking forward to seeing you all in Brno on 23 September!

With best wishes for a fruitful summer and some well-earned holidays, on behalf of **EULETA**,



David Albert BEST (President)
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