

Estonian Lawyers Union: NGO`s role in developing democracy

17.04.2017





- Established in 1989 with a main purpose to develop the state based on law as well as to develop and strengthen it.
- In 2016 the purposes of EJU were approved as following:
 - ✓ a guarantor of a democratic state based on law
 - ✓ the guardian of civil society
 - ✓ NGOs developer

NGOs, development and current status

- In 1989 formation of law-making and political opinions
- In 2000 international cooperation with foreign organizations and the Nordic Lawyers organization
- In 2000 formation of the opinions about joining the EU amongst NGOs



NGOs, development and current status



- 2003 different unions amongst EJL were established – public administration, company lawyers, European law, young lawyers.
- Unions implement legal policy among their field of action and present their opinion to law drafts. Through the unions EJL can affect the state and local government's opinions and actions in solving the painful problems in society.
- 2009 female lawyers union association was founded with the purpose to promote gender equality and equal treatment amongst all the population. In 2010 female lawyers joined the European Female Lawyers Association EWLA.
- 2011 congress of female lawyers was held in Rome.
- Tallinn was named the Capital of Law in Europe and different discussions and panels were held throughout the year. In June a FIDE XXV congress was held, 665 delegates from different countries participated, the main topic of the congress were human rights and protection of personal data.



NGOs, development and current status

- From 2011 to 2014 female lawyers organized seven different conferences and forums.
- 7 March 2014 6th Women`s Congress was held in the re-independent Estonia. Topics of the congress were following:
 - ⇒ women`s role on management
 - ⇒ women`s role in politics
 - ⇒ women`s role in family as carrying the traditional values



NGOs, development and current status

- Period 2011-2015 was very successful, different strategies and decisions were on the table:
 - ⇒ quality of the education given by the universities
 - ⇒ e-residency, its development and promotion
 - ⇒ employment and unemployment
 - ⇒ surety of human rights, ensuring public services, quality and extent
 - ⇒ state legal aid and its access to economically underprivileged citizens



How to reach citizens?

- Cooperation with media and public relations` channels
 - ⇒ special tv and radio shows
 - ⇒ informative social media
 - ⇒ discussions with ordinary people
 - ⇒ in addition to the public administration, an ordinary citizen has to be involved. There are more thoughts that might be right.



NGOs tomorrow

- ⇒ Development cooperation project with the Republic of Moldova
- ⇒ 7th Congress of Estonian Women on the 7th of March 2017
- ⇒ Provision of free legal aid through oral consulting and web-based channels.