



**Summary of the proceedings at the
2nd symposium of voluntary lay involvement in the justice system
held in Berlin at the European Academy from 17 to 19 July 2010**

Representatives of organisations of (expert) voluntary lay judges and justices, magistrates, justices of the peace and arbitrators in England and Wales, Finland, Scotland, Austria, Sweden, Spain and Germany came to an agreement at the above-mentioned conference on the following practical steps in their cooperation:

1. The goals of our cooperation are:
 - a. to found a European organisation for volunteer and lay person involvement in jurisdiction. By means of this European organisation which is to be set up, lay involvement is to be secured and extended in the member countries involved, and a corresponding involvement in European jurisdiction is to be implemented.
 - b. a charter of volunteer lay involvement by European citizens in jurisdiction is to be incorporated in the European catalogue of core values.

2. For this purpose the representatives of the a.m. organisations will undertake the following practical measures:
 - a. in order to provide public information, the Finnish organisation has set up a web site which they will maintain and expand with the support of other organisations. By means of this web site it is proposed to document both involvement of voluntary lay persons in jurisdiction in Europe and measures to achieve our objectives, as well as timely information about development of legislative and practical framework conditions. For this purpose there will be links set up from our joint web site to the internet sites of our national associations and also links from national web sites to the European internet site. The Finnish organisation is responsible for managing the European internet site. Financing will be ensured through project funds available.
 - b. The national organisations will extend the circle of project participants by contacting other countries where the corresponding representative bodies have to date not been involved in any of the meetings and/or the representative bodies have not yet been constituted. To be specific, contacts are to be put in place or intensified between

i. Spain and	Italy, Portugal
ii. Finland and	Estonia
iii. Sweden and	Denmark, Norway
iv. Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia) and	Belgium
v. Germany (Brandenburg/Berlin) and	Bulgaria, Slovak Republic, Switzerland
(the IRZ Foundation has offered to support this)	
vi. Austria and	Slovenia, the Czech Republic

This list may be extended.

- c. Germany (Federal association) will prepare by the end of 2010 an initial first draft of a 'Charter for volunteer lay involvement in jurisdiction'. In advance of the next meeting in 2011, there should be written opinions/reactions (by e-mail) and if required, videoconferencing in order to agree and resolve this Charter. Germany will undertake to organise these conferences. It is proposed if at all possible to formally sign the Charter in London in 2011.
- d. All the organisations undertake, in their own respective national field, to notify governments and the members of the European Parliament (in England and Scotland in addition the Councils of Judges) about these efforts and to acquire these persons/organisations as supporters/promoters.