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THE HAGUE INITIATIVE  
*for* INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

## Business Plan 2019

December 2018  
(Version 1.0)

© 2018 **thinc.** The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation

An initiative to study the relationship between Israel and the nations to promote international peace and security, friendly relations amongst nations, and peaceful resolution of conflicts based on the principles of justice and international law.

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[www.thinc.info](http://www.thinc.info)

# 1. Introduction

*The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (thinc.)* is an independent research organisation dedicated to the promotion of the Rule of Law. The establishment of *thinc.* is motivated by the conviction that the fair and unbiased application of the Rule of Law in international relations is an essential component of the peaceful resolution of conflicts between nations.

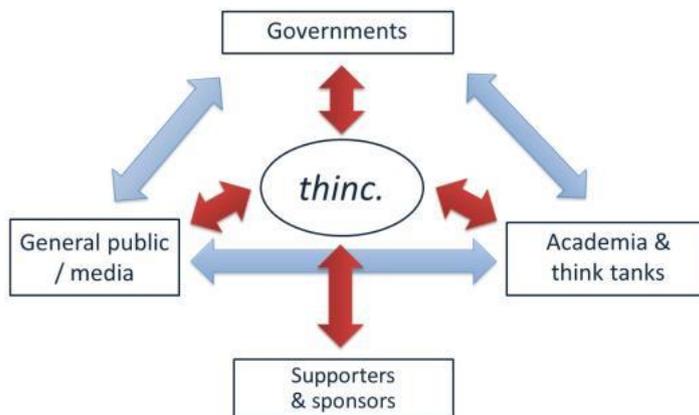
In practice, the international legal system is at risk of manipulation by groups of nations to achieve military or ideological ends. A striking example of this is the Israel-Palestine conflict. The instrumental use of the international legal system risks the undermining of the sovereign equality of states and the human rights of peoples.

Our method is to critically evaluate the application of international law to the Israel-Palestine dispute. We do this by examining international law in its historical, political, religious and military contexts. We facilitate research, discussion, briefings and publications by international lawyers, historians and other experts.

Our aim is to help politicians and policy-makers to make informed decisions on the fair and non-discriminatory application of international law to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and to advance the nonviolent resolution of the conflict and cooperation between the parties.

*thinc.* has four areas of activity:

- Engaging in academic research and dialogue
- Counselling governments
- Informing the general public and the media
- Building a network of supporters and sponsors



This *Business Plan 2019* contains the activities that we plan to perform in 2019, in accordance with the strategic direction set by the Supervisory Board and taking into account the available resources.

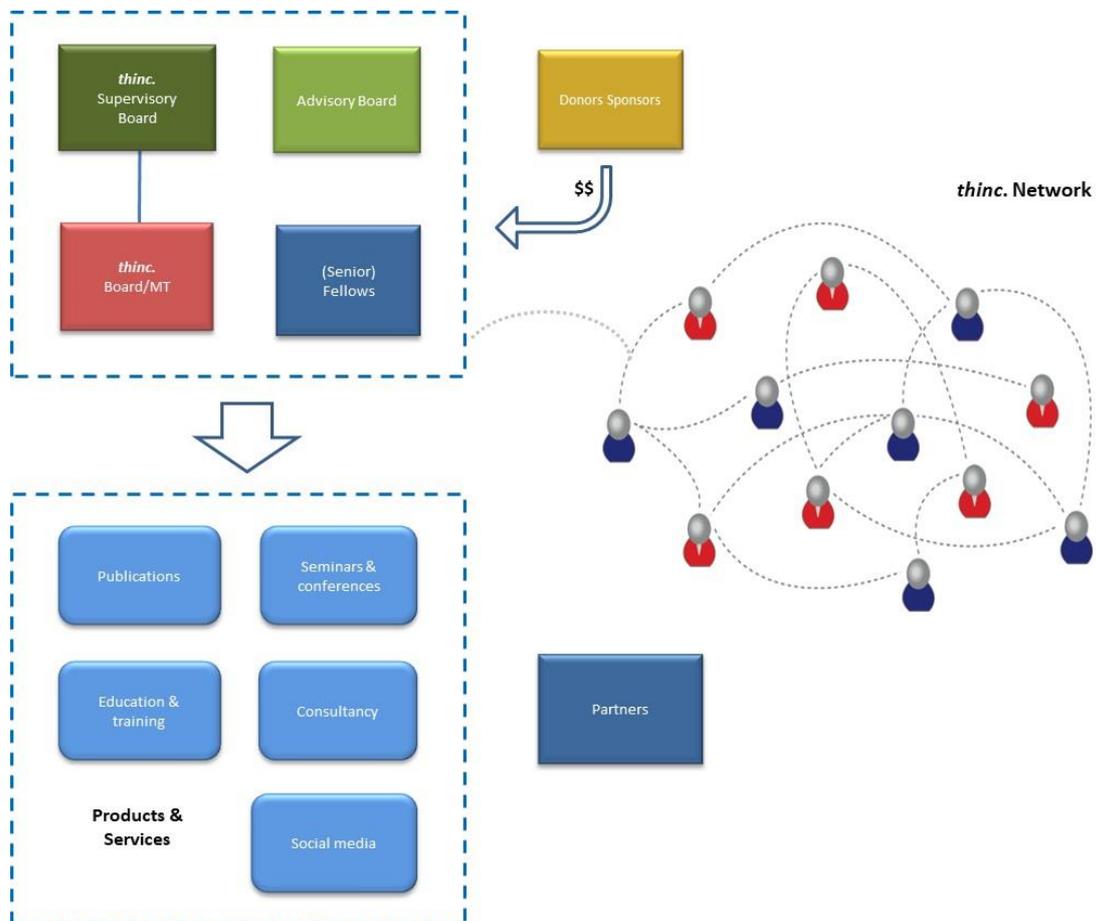
In 2019, priority will be given to the further development of our network of international legal academics.

The activities in the Government area will mainly comprise of group events such as seminars, which we will organise in cooperation with local and regional partners.

A special activity is the planned *Summer School 2019* for international law students and graduates in Israel.

## 2. Organisation

*thinc.* is a foundation under Dutch law, seated in The Hague. We comprise a global network of experienced legal practitioners and academics in the field of international law (*associates*), who endorse our goals and are willing to dedicate their personal resources to *thinc.* Associates who contribute in a special way to the work and achievements of *thinc.* may be appointed Fellow or Senior Fellow.



The Management Team (MT) of *thinc.* consists of two Directors, viz. Andrew Tucker and Pieter Hoogendoorn. They manage the *thinc.* network and its activities.

The Board of Directors and the MT are assisted by Mr. Alan Stephens, counsellor, and an Advisory Board of academics in the relevant disciplines and media experts.

In 2017, Dr Matthijs de Blois and Dr Cynthia Day Wallace have been appointed as Senior Fellows.

*thinc.* is a non-profit organization and has the ANBI status. See [www.thinc.info](http://www.thinc.info) for further information and details.

### 3. Academic research and dialogue

#### 3.1. The International Rule of Law Academic Program 2018-2021

Objective: Expanding the *thinc.* network of academics.

##### *Engage leading academics*

Approach leading international lawyers/academics to participate in *thinc.*, e.g. in the collaborative research project on the future of the ‘*Two-State Solution*’. As a first step we will work closely with our counsellor to approach a small number of highly-respected lawyers.

##### *Find and engage associates*

Seek out and engage with international lawyers (academics and practitioners) in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia/Pacific, and invite those who satisfy the criteria to become *thinc.* associates. This requires research of the following criteria: who has published what in relation to Israel/Palestine, to what extent coincide their writings with the views being advanced by *thinc.*, etc. We will invite them to:

- Write articles for the website
- Attend *thinc.* events
- Contribute to a research project.

#### 3.2. Research Projects and Publications

Objective: research core legal issues and publish various kinds of material.

##### **Research Projects and Papers**

These activities are primarily directed at the (legal) academic audience. The planned research theme is ‘The status of Jerusalem and the Two-State Solution under International Law’. We envisage a collaborative project of international lawyers and academics from other disciplines who all are experts on different aspects of the subject matter. The main result of the project will be a Report of Experts (4Q 2019). This Report will be published and presented as an “Amicus Curiae” brief to the International Court of Justice and other international law institutions.

##### **Academic articles**

Articles for publication in peer-reviewed legal journals.

##### **Monographs (books)**

- Publication of a new book of Senior Fellow Dr Cynthia Day Wallace.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> (extended) edition of ‘*Israel on Trial*’.

#### 3.3. Conferences, seminars and events

At the occasion of the publishing of the Report of Experts about ‘The Status of Jerusalem and the Two-State Solution under International Law’ mentioned above, an international 2-day conference on the same theme will be organised in The Hague (4Q 2019).

#### 3.4. Education and training

We are planning a 10-day Summer School for international law students and graduates in Israel, including excursions into the “Territories”, from 26 June – 5 July 2019.

Tutors are: Prof. Dr Li Ann Thio (National University of Singapore), Dr Matthijs de Blois, Andrew Tucker and several guest speakers.

### **3.5. *thinc*. Library**

We plan to set up a user-friendly searchable on-line catalogue of academic publications specifically dealing with the Israel/Palestine dispute under international law. This should become the “go to” place for information about legal academic thinking on the Israel/Palestine dispute. The plan is to execute the project in cooperation with the Peace Palace Library (PPL). Depending on the terms of the cooperation with the PPL a *light* version may be created.

## **4. Counselling governments**

Objective: Convincing political leaders and their advisers of the merits of

- (a) The sovereign rights of the Jewish State of Israel including the right to sovereign equality, secure borders, political autonomy and territorial integrity; and
- (b) the application of the Rule of Law to advance Israeli/Palestinian cooperation and the social and economic advancement of the Palestinian people.

We will focus on those nations that have not voted in favour of General Assembly resolution ES-10/19 adopted in late December 2017, condemning the US decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move its embassy to Jerusalem. We assume that these nations are potentially open to such an approach.

Method: Information sharing and seminars.

### **Information sharing**

We will send books, *Policy Papers* and other materials to key government people.

### ***Policy Papers***

We will produce a series of Policy Papers on international legal topics for policy-makers, politicians, and others interested in international relations and foreign policy relating to Israel/Palestine. Proposed topics include

- ‘EU, UN and the political commitment to the *Two-State Solution*’; is this the only possible solution under international law? What other solutions are possible?
- ‘The status of Jerusalem, including location of foreign embassies in Jerusalem’.
- ‘EU Policy on Jerusalem – why it conflicts with international law, and what can be done about it’.

### **Seminars**

Seminars on the theme ‘The status of Jerusalem and the future of the Two-state Solution under international law’ will be organised for MPs, policy-makers, international lawyers and opinion leaders in different regions worldwide. Planned seminars include the following locations:

- Prague – for a mostly East/Central European audience (8-9 January 2019)
- Brussels – seat of the EU Parliament, including African missions
- New York – seat of the UN, including missions from A/P and Latin America.

The seminars will be organised in cooperation with local and regional partners; *thinc*. will be responsible for the seminar program, the partner(s) for the logistics.

## 5. General Public / Media

Objective: Making the general public and the Media aware of the *lawfare* against Israel.

We will inform the general public and the Media about the application of international law to the Israel-Palestine conflict. This means

- (a) condensing our information into bite-sized chunks of information;
- (b) presenting information in a language and style that is intelligible for non-lawyers;
- (c) communicating via various media forms and channels, incl. social media.

### Lectures and presentations

Seize opportunities to give lectures and presentations for general audiences on the topics of research and policy papers, at (near-)zero costs.

### Articles and Op-Eds

Submit articles for publication in respected journals, newspapers and websites such as The Commentator, NYT, Australian, and Times of Israel.

#### 5.1. Media

Seize opportunities to share our message via existing media channels and outlets such as newspapers, TV and radio interviews, at (near-)zero costs.

## 6. Supporters and Sponsors

Objective: Liaising with supporters and sponsors.

We will set up a database including the contact details of sponsors and supporters, and send out *Newsletters* to update them on our development and inform them of our (financial) needs.

### 6.1. Sponsors

Sponsoring can come in various ways:

- a) (incidental) donations, large and small;
- b) structural sponsoring by individuals, companies or organizations on (multi-) annual basis;
- c) sponsoring of specific activities and projects; e.g. book publications, research projects, a seminar or summer school;
- d) subsidies from governments or specific funds.

We plan to engage professional assistance to acquire grants and donations to finance projects and the ongoing operations (office and staff).

In addition to the *Newsletter*, sponsors will receive personal progress reports and visits.

## 7. Finance

The budget of *thinc.* is based on the following starting-points:

1. The MT undertakes to perform the activities in the different areas as much as possible on a project basis and to recruit project sponsors for the financing.
2. The Board aims to obtain long-term commitments from individuals and enterprises to secure the continuity of the operations.
3. *thinc.* Fellows receive no remuneration, expenses are compensated.

<b>Budget 2019 (Euro x 1000)</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Research, conferences and education	€ 86
Government counselling and seminars	€ 19
Communication	€ 4
Operations	€ 66
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 175</b>

<b>Budget 2019 (Euro x 1000)</b>	<b>Income</b>
Professional Service fees	€ 61
Publications	€ 4
Project sponsoring and Donations	€ 60
Grants	€ 50
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 175</b>