

think.

THE HAGUE INITIATIVE
for INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Business Plan 2020

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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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1. Introduction

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

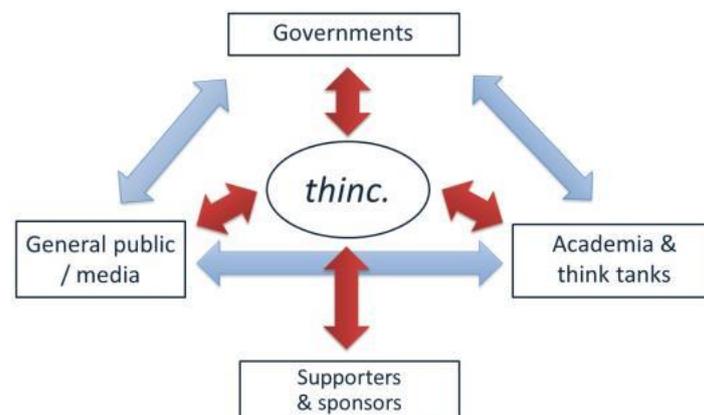
Because law and politics are so closely intertwined, the international legal system is at risk of manipulation by groups of nations to achieve military or ideological ends. A striking example of this is the Israel-Palestine conflict. The instrumental use of the international legal system not only impedes peaceful negotiations, it threatens to undermine the sovereign equality of states and the human rights of peoples.

We challenge existing perspectives of the Israel-Palestine conflict and promote both balance and context in the interpretation and application of international law with respect to Israel and the Israel-Palestine conflict. We critically evaluate the use of 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 non-violent 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 2020* contains the activities we plan to execute in 2020, in accordance with the strategic direction set by the Supervisory Board and subject to available resources.

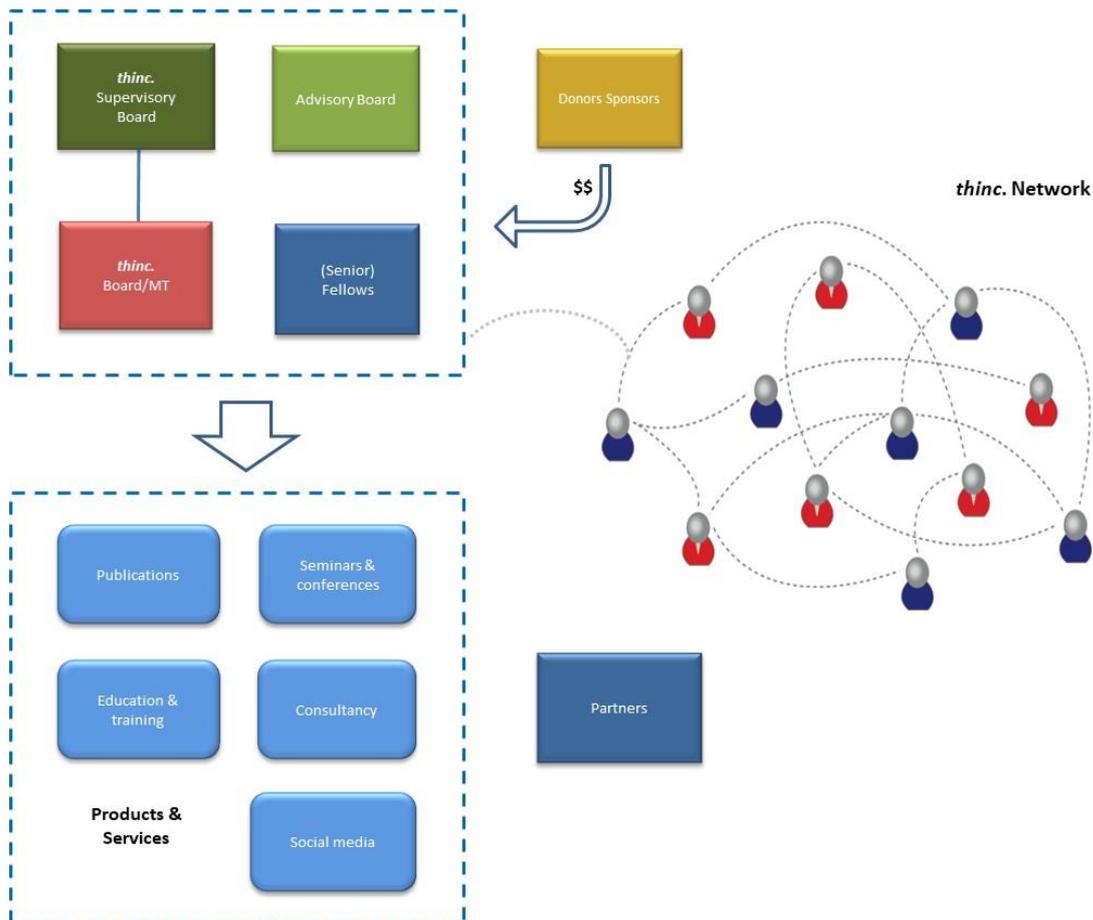
We plan to intensify the creation and dissemination of legal content i.a. by expanding our network of international legal academics and cooperation with academia on different continents; see Section 3.

The activities in the Government area will comprise group events, such as conferences and seminars, that we will organise in cooperation with local and regional partners, and one-to-one consulting activities; see Section 4.

We plan to invest in the development of state of the art publishing and distribution means, i.a. via social media, for our products such as written materials and videos; see Section 5.

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 contribute 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 Supervisory Board and the MT are assisted by Prof. Dr. Li-ann Thio, advisor. The Advisory Board (in formation) will comprise academics from various disciplines.

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

thinc. is a non-profit organization enjoying the so-called 'ANBI status'. This is a non-profit tax designation in the Netherlands, issued by the Tax Office in accordance with the general tax laws. This coveted status is issued to organizations which meet the stringent ANBI criteria. The ANBI status entitles donors to certain tax benefits in the Netherlands.

thinc. Fellows and the members of the Supervisory Board receive no remuneration, expenses are compensated. See www.thinc.info for further information and details.

3. Academic research and dialogue

3.1. Academic Program 2018-2021

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

Engage leading academics

We will continue to approach leading international lawyers/academics to participate in the work of *thinc.*, e.g. in the collaborative research project ‘International Law in Context’.

Find and engage associates

We will continue to identify 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 or fellows. We will invite them to:

- write articles and blogs for the website
- attend or participate in *thinc.* events
- contribute to research projects.

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. However, the results will also serve as a basis for informing stakeholders and recipients in the Government and other domains. The planned research themes are:

- *International Law in Context* – the objective of this project is to promote balance and context in the interpretation and application of international law with respect to Israel and the Israel-Palestine conflict. This will be accomplished by teams of experts in the field of international law and other relevant disciplines, who will study a selection of relevant issues from different angles.
- *Cases & Materials on the Israel-Palestine Conflict* – a strategic collaborative project of international law students and graduates from different universities under the supervision of senior *thinc.* staff that will result in a collection of key documents related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- *The status of Jerusalem* – a theme that gains increasing attention in the international political arena. What is the status of Jerusalem under international law? A team of experts studies this topic and will produce several papers. The status of Jerusalem under international law is closely related to the theme of the Two-state Solution.
- *The future of the Two-state Solution* – ever since 1920 a 2-state solution has been discussed, and many proposals have been made, but the prospect of a negotiated 2-state solution seems more unlikely than ever. We will investigate what the impediments and permissible alternatives are under international law to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians based on the principles of justice and international law.

Academic articles

We will coordinate the production of several academic articles for publication in peer-reviewed legal journals.

Monographs (books)

Publication of a new book on the legal foundations of the State of Israel against the background of the political discourse in the UN and the Media by Senior Fellow Dr. Cynthia Wallace (originally planned for 2019).

3.3. Conferences, seminars and events

Following the publishing of the report of experts about 'The Status of Jerusalem under International Law' mentioned above, an international 1-day conference on this theme with an expected audience of 80-100 people will be organised in The Hague.

3.4. Education and training

Based on the success of the 10-day Summer School 2019 for international law and international relations students and graduates, we will organise a full two weeks Summer School in Israel from 21 June – 3 July 2020. Tutors will be 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) in The Hague and to create synergy with the *Cases & Materials* project mentioned above.

4. Counselling governments

Objective: Advising political leaders and their advisers about -

- a) the sovereign rights of the Jewish State of Israel and other states in the region, 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.

Method: Information sharing, seminars and consulting.

Information sharing

We distinguish two ways of information sharing; push and pull. Nowadays, information push across the society, including the Government domain, largely happens via the social media. This requires the editing and packaging of the information such that the message can be pushed to the recipient in a state-of-the-art way, in the format of text or video. In practice this means that the message can vary in length from 100 characters to 500 words or a few minutes of video.

Information may also be pulled, usually from our website. Also here the message must be packaged in a state-of-the-art way. Eventually, the recipient may decide to download the information in pdf format.

A professional Communications Advisor / Marketing agency will be engaged to assist us to prepare and disseminate our products in the appropriate language and via the most suitable channels to the target audiences.

We will continue to distribute books, *Policy Papers*, briefings and other materials to key government people as may be appropriate.

Policy Papers

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

- 'EU, UN and the *Two-state Solution* – what are the options?' This paper will examine whether the 'two-state solution' as formulated by the EU and UN reflects a fair and balanced interpretation of 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, why it is not advancing peaceful resolution of the conflict, 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, policymakers, international lawyers and opinion leaders in different regions worldwide. Planned seminars include the following locations:

- Central/East European capital – for a mostly Central/East European audience
- Brussels – seat of the EU Parliament, including African missions
- New York – seat of the UN, including missions from Asia/Pacific 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.

Consulting

We will endeavour to acquire 2 - 4 consulting assignments from governments and political parties to provide them with international law-based materials and advice on which they can base their position regarding the rights of the State of Israel and the Israel-Palestine conflict in the EU, the UN and related institutes.

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 requires

1. condensing our information into bite-sized chunks of information,
2. presenting information in a language and style that is intelligible for non-lawyers,
3. communicating via various media forms and channels, incl. social media.

A specific activity in this area is the editing of a series of video interviews with experts in the fields of international law, history and national security.

Cf. Section 4 – Information sharing above. We intend to engage a professional Communications Advisor / Marketing agency to prepare and disseminate our message to this target audience.

Lectures and presentations

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

Articles and Op-Eds/Blogs

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

5.1. Media

We will 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 plan to send out six *Newsletters* per year to our supporters, sponsors and other interested people to highlight important current developments, update them on our work 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.

Based on experience, we will focus on methods c) and d) mentioned above.

7. Finance

The MT undertakes to perform the activities in the different areas as much as possible on a project by project basis, and to acquire grants and recruit sponsors for the financing.

The budget item Operations includes the costs of staff, travel and lodging, office costs, IT, administration and support.

Budget 2020	Costs
Academic research program	€ 34.350
Conferences and seminars	€ 84.900
Professional services	€ 34.000
Publications, Marketing and Communication	€ 30.690
Summer School 2020	€ 81.820
Operations; office, expenses and support	€ 39.650
Total	€ 305.410

Budget 2020	Income
Entry fees; conferences and seminars	€ 49.400
Participation fees Summer School 2020	€ 64.090
Counseling	€ 8.000
Publications	€ 11.000
Project sponsoring and grants	€ 96.680
Donations	€ 76.240
Total	€ 305.410