

thinc.

THE HAGUE INITIATIVE
for INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Annual report 2019

www.thinc.info

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thinc.
The Netherlands

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31 March 2020



Chairman's message

2019 was the second full calendar year of *thinc*. The team has worked with full force to build on the primary successes of the first year to realize the goals as described in the articles of association. An international seminar was organized in Prague in cooperation with local partners. Four articles and fifteen blogs by internationally renowned lawyers were published on the website, '*The Hague Statement of Jurists on the Israel-Palestine conflict*' was translated into Hungarian and French and in May the *thinc* Newsletter was launched.

A certain highlight was the inaugural Summer School 2019 in Israel that was attended by 27 international law and international relations students from Australia to Europe.

thinc is a think tank, comprising a worldwide network that is managed from the Netherlands by a small Management Team. The Management Team is supported by two experienced advisers and two senior fellows. In the coming years the strategy will focus on increasing the production of academic-quality publications by broadening the network and deepening the available knowledge. In addition, investments will be made in expanding the educational program and communication channels to share 'our' knowledge.

As a professional organisation, *thinc* aims to meet the academic standards of scientific quality and objectivity.

thinc is a non-profit organization that has no political affiliation and does not receive government subsidies. However, *international law* is not a topic for which people easily pull out their wallet. The Supervisory Board and the Management Team are committed to advancing our objectives and developing the think tank as much as possible on the basis of commissions and project-based subsidies.

G.M.C. Cremer Eindhoven
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

1. Report of the Board

The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (abbreviated: *thinc.*) is a non-profit organization established on 24 May 2017. The statutory seat of *thinc.* is The Hague.

The goals of *thinc.* are to promote international peace and security, friendly relations among nations and the peaceful resolution of disputes based on the principles of justice and international law - in accordance with the UN Charter.

We currently focus on the State of Israel, the Jewish people, the Palestinians and their mutual relations because these entities and their relations are very significant, both legally and politically, in the international community. In doing so, our objectives are (i) to promote UN principles and values in the interpretation, development and application of international law, and (ii) to contribute to the understanding of the interaction between international law and political decision-making.

thinc. endeavors to realize its goals *inter alia* through

- researching international law and the establishment and support of expert networks in this area,
- publications and online information provisioning,
- setting up training programs in the field of international law,
- organizing seminars and conferences,
- consulting.

Based on these objectives *thinc.* can be characterized as a think tank that focuses on the research of international law and its application within international politics.

The Board has convened three times to discuss the development of the organization, the strategy for the period 2019-2021 and, especially, the prioritization of activities, staffing and financing.

thinc. enjoys 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 (Uitvoeringsregeling Algemene Wet Rijksbelastingen 1994). The coveted ANBI status is issued to organizations which meet the stringent ANBI criteria. Our ANBI status entitles donors to certain tax benefits in the Netherlands; the Management Team is currently engaged with authorities in other countries to obtain equivalent status in other donor jurisdictions.

Activities in 2019

Most energy has been invested in research, publications and the organizing of lectures and the inaugural Summer School 2019. In addition, preparations were started for the Summer School 2020.

Research and Publications

The focus of the research and pertaining publications was on two topics: (i) the status of Jerusalem under international law and several related cases brought before the international courts in The Hague, and (ii) the proceedings of various UN institutions and European courts regarding the State of Israel and the Israel-Palestine conflict which should be considered as discriminatory of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

International law experts from the *thinc.* network have published four (4) articles, fifteen (15) blogs and four (4) reports on the website.

We have started the publishing of the *thinc.* Newsletter in May 2019. The Newsletters address actual topics and/or special subjects. During the year five Newsletters were published to ca. 1100 subscribers.

The extended edition of *'The Hague Statement of jurists on the Israel-Palestine conflict'*, November 2017, was translated into Hungarian (June 2019) and French (July 2019).

During the year 227 copies of the book *'Israel on Trial'* by Dr. M. de Blois and A. Tucker were sold, 67 copies were presented to acquaintances and prospective relations.

Seminars and lectures

A seminar for international lawyers and diplomats about the status of Jerusalem under international law was organised in cooperation with the William Wilberforce Institute and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem in Prague. The seminar was attended by 35 participants from the Czech Republic and neighboring countries.

During the year, Dr. Matthijs de Blois and Andrew Tucker have given lectures *inter alia* in Belgium, Finland, Israel, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Summer School 2019

The inaugural *thinc.* Summer School for international law and international relations students, graduates and practitioners took place from 26 June – 5 July in Jerusalem. The school was attended by 27 students from Australia, Israel, Singapore and Europe.

2. Future

In 2020 *thinc.* will focus its activities on (i) engaging more international law academics in our research activities, (ii) increasing the brand awareness by means of online publications, seminars and a conference, and (iii) developing the educational program (Summer School).

Activities 2020

Research and publications

We plan to start several research projects, including a '*Cases, Materials and Commentary*' project (C&M project) that will result in a compendium of the most relevant cases within the Israel-Palestine dispute that can be used for education at law schools and universities. A second research project will be aimed at researching the (lack of) context of the creation and application of international law to specific disputes.

We plan to differentiate our publications along four lines, viz.

- Blogs – short articles and Op-eds
- Articles
- Reports – of projects and events
- Monographs.

We will engage a Marketing and Communication agency to advise and assist us to set up a state of art platform for the online dissemination of our messages and products.

Seminars and conferences

Based on the positive feedback from the seminars in i.a. The Hague and Prague, new seminars will be organized in different countries on the subjects of '*The status of Jerusalem under international law*' and '*The future of the Two-state Solution*'. These seminars will be organized in cooperation with local/regional partners and sponsors.

Besides the seminars we intend to organise a conference in The Hague for international lawyers, jurists and diplomats about the role of international tribunals vis-à-vis the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Engagement

We will endeavor to engage high-profile international legal experts in an advisory capacity. On working level, we will invite legal academics to participate in our projects and we will encourage the *thinc.* network to publish articles on our website and in international journals.

Educational program

In addition to the C&M project and based on the success of the inaugural Summer School 2019 we plan to organise a full 2-week Summer School 2020 for international law and international relations students, again in Israel. The theme of the Summer School will be '*International Law and the Israel-Palestine conflict*'. Preparations of this Summer School have been started in the 4th quarter of 2019.

3. Organisation

Name of the foundation: Stichting The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation

Abbreviated name: *thinc.*

Statutory seat: The Hague

Email address: info@thinc.info

Web: www.thinc.info

Fiscal nr (RSIN): 857611112

Chamber of Commerce nr (KvK nr): 68830084

thinc. is a registered **ANBI** in The Netherlands.

Bank Account Number (IBAN): NL15 INGB 0007 8215 39

Governance

The governance structure of the foundation comprises a Supervisory Board and a Board – in accordance with ANBI regulations.

The Management Team consists of

- Mr. G.M.C. Cremer Eindhoven – Chairman of the Supervisory Board
- Mr. P.J. Hoogendoorn – Director
- Mr. A.E.L. Tucker – Program Manager

Board members are appointed for a period of 5 years and can subsequently be reappointed. On 1 November Mr. Michiel Malotau joined the Supervisory Board.

The Management Team was assisted by Mr. A. Stephens and Prof. Li-ann Thio – advisors. At the end of the year Mr. Stephens has stepped down as advisor. The Board is very grateful for his contribution to the development of *thinc.*

Operations

The Program Manager conducts research and makes proposals for the research, publications and educational programs to the Board.

The Program Manager is assisted by the Senior Fellows and other members from the *thinc.* network. They conduct research, write papers and lecture at events.

The daily operations, projects and events are managed by the Director.

From 1 March – 1 December Mrs. Gabriele Kuchenbecker has been a member of the team as Research Associate.

thinc. has appointed two Senior Fellows: Dr. M. de Blois and Dr. C.D. Wallace.

The Director and the Program Manager are financially rewarded. All other Board members and staff work on a voluntary basis, they are not financially rewarded, their expenses are reimbursed.

4. Financial statement

Balance sheet per 31 December 2019

Assets		Liabilities	
Books	€ 5.720	Equity	€ 42.669
Liquidities	€ 37.166	Accounts payable	€ 217
Total	€ 42.886	Total	€ 42.886

Income statement

Income 2019	
Margin book sales	€ 5.820
Donations	€ 77.257
Sponsorships	€ 46.784
Gross income	€ 129.861
Operating costs	€ 97.302
Net income	€ 32.559

Operating costs

Operating costs 2019	
Research projects	€ 35.000
Seminars and lectures	€ 11.172
Summer School	€ 21.503
Salary costs	€ 26.014
IT and Office support	€ 2.357
General costs	€ 1.256
Total	€ 97.302

The costs of Research projects include the costs of project management. The costs of Seminars and lectures include the costs of the *thinc.* staff and guest speakers (travel & lodging and remuneration) in The Netherlands and abroad.

Signed

G.M.C. Cremer Eindhoven
 Chairman

P.J. Hoogendoorn
 Director

5. Budget 2020

The budget for 2020 reflects the planned management policy, including priorities Research, Seminars and Conferences, and Education’.

In order to provide quality work, qualified staff and expert advice will be hired on a limited scale for research and project management.

We aim for a margin of 10 % on our external activities, such as conferences, seminars and educational activities.

Expenses		Income	
Research incl. project management	€ 80.500	Donations & sponsoring	€ 176.700
External expertise & support	€ 18.600	Summer School	€ 65.900
Summer School 2020	€ 79.400	Seminars and conferences	€ 49.400
Seminars and conferences	€ 84.900	Book sales	€ 3.000
General management & support	€ 39.600	Consulting	€ 8.000
Total	€ 303.000	Total	€ 303.000