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ISRAEL *and* INTERNATIONAL LAW

## Business Plan 2022

Version 1.1

(December 2021)

© 2021 **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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## 1. Introduction

*The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (thinc.)* comprises a worldwide network of experts in the fields of international law and political science, dedicated to the promotion of the Rule of Law in international relations.

### The context

After WWI, the Mandate system laid the foundation for the establishment of the modern States of the Middle East. Since 2000, this region is undergoing a massive transition. The Arab Spring did not deliver the stability and peace that many hoped for, actually many States have failed. Religious, ethnic and national identity all play a role in the constant turmoil.

Since the Six Day War (1967), the State of Israel has become the subject of delegitimation and the misuse of international law in the international political arena, most notably in the UN. For many decades, the “Israel-Palestine conflict” was seen as the main problem to be solved, which led to an imbalanced focus on this conflict and resulted in a biased approach to international law. It is time to re-think current mainstream approaches to these issues, and search for out-of-the-box solutions.

### Our Mission

The mission of *thinc.* is to advance a fair and balanced application of international law to the State of Israel, the Palestinians and all other peoples in the region.

### Our Values

We defend the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

We respect the aspirations of the Palestinians for independence.

We challenge existing perspectives and promote both a contextual understanding of the region (including the role of religion) and balance in the interpretation and application of international law.

We believe that the contextual, fair and unbiased application of the Rule of Law is essential to the achievement of friendly relations, peaceful resolution of conflicts and cooperation between States and peoples, in the Middle East and beyond.

### Our Strategy

The core components of our strategy are (i) multi-disciplinary collaboration in order to fully understand the core problems and search for workable solutions, and (ii) focus to be effective. Accordingly, we focus our activities on organizations and individuals in the following fields:

- *Academia*: Academic students, teachers and institutions
- *Civil Society*: Politicians, diplomats, policy makers and influencers
- *Christianity*: individual Christians, churches, and Christian organisations

### Our Activities

*thinc.* has three areas of activity:

- Research and Publications
- Education and Communication
- Consulting and Advice

This *Business Plan 2022* contains the activities we plan to execute in 2022.

## 2. Organisation

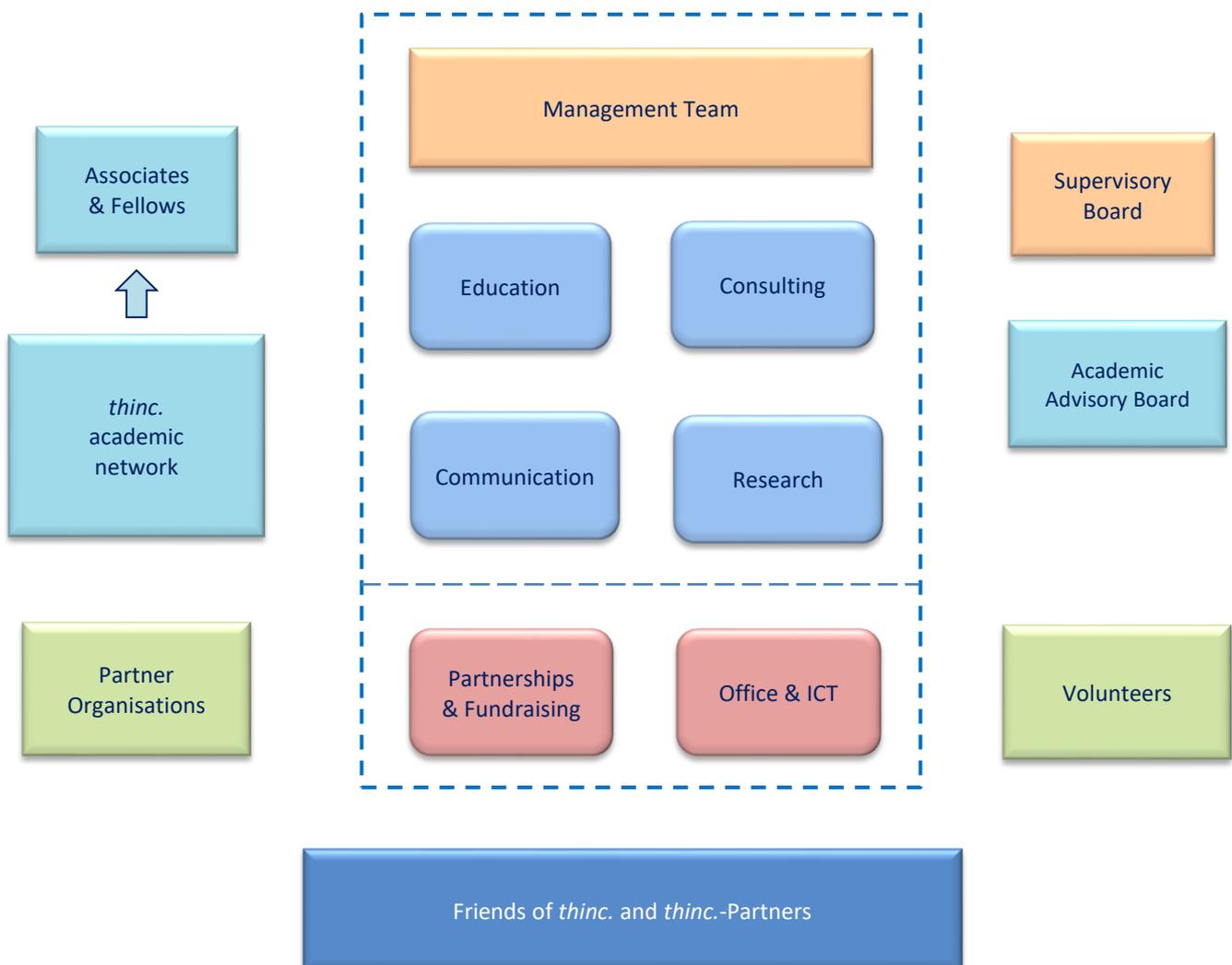
*thinc.* is a foundation under Dutch law, established in 2017, seated in The Hague – international law capital of the world.

The activities of the foundation are coordinated by a small Management Team (MT).

Research is mainly performed on a project basis by international, interdisciplinary teams.

In 2022 we plan to grow the *thinc.* network and intensify our Education and Communication activities.

Support functions, such as ICT will be outsourced as much as possible.



**Supervisory Board:** as per 1 January 2022, the Supervisory Board consists of Patrick America and Michiel Malotau. We will look for an additional member of the SB in 2022.

**Academic Advisory Board:** Prof. Dr. Li-ann Thio, National University of Singapore, Prof. Robbie Sabel, Hebrew University and Prof. Gregory Rose, University of Wollongong (until 1 July 2022). In 2022, we hope to strengthen the Academic Advisory Board with at least two new academic advisors.

**Management Team:** currently consists of Pieter Hoogendoorn (Director Operations) and Andrew Tucker (Program Director). Both directors are engaged on part-time basis. Pieter Hoogendoorn will retire as of 1 July 2022.

As from 1 July 2022, the MT will comprise Andrew Tucker and Prof. Gregory Rose, who will come on board on a part-time basis (2 days per week).

Andrew Tucker (based in the Netherlands) will function as Executive Director, and will have responsibility for the day-to-day operations, as well as Education and Communication. He will focus on developing the work of *thinc.* in Europe. Prof. Rose, based in Australia, will have responsibility for Research and Publications, and will represent and advance the work of *thinc.* in the A/P region.

**Senior Fellows:** Dr. M. de Blois (Professor emeritus, University of Utrecht) and Dr. C.D. Wallace (former senior adviser to the UN, Geneva). Senior Fellows are engaged on an honorary basis.

**Associates:** In 2022, we plan to strengthen our team by engaging two international law academics with specific expertise as Associates (remunerated). Each Associate will have responsibility for developing a specific theme/project.

**Junior Researchers:** we have a small but growing pool of young researchers in different countries. They are engaged on project basis.

**Communications:** We plan to appoint in 2022 a Communications Advisor (consultant) and a Communications Manager (both part-time).

**Administration and Finances:** we intend to find a volunteer to work one day per week on administration and finances.

***thinc.* network of experts:** we are growing a global network of experienced academics, practitioners, and experts in international law and related fields such as history, political science and religion. These experts contribute on an *ad hoc* basis to research/publications projects, educational programs and (where appropriate) advice.

**Friends of *thinc.* and *thinc.*-Partners:** we receive no direct government subsidies, we are funded entirely by private donors, i.e. 'Friends of *thinc.*' and '*thinc.*-Partners' (see Section 6).

**Partner organisations:** we cooperate with three types of organisations, viz. (i) professional organisations in the field of international law and international relations, (ii) academia and law schools, and (iii) organisations in the field of public diplomacy.

*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. 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 and Academic Advisory Boards receive no remuneration, expenses are compensated. See [www.thinc.info](http://www.thinc.info) for further information and details.

### 3. Research and Publications

#### 3.1. Research themes 2022

We will make a selection from the following list in consultation with the Academic Advisory Board:

- Europe, the Israel-Palestine conflict and international law
- Jerusalem
- The International Criminal Court and the Middle East
- The self-determination of peoples in the Middle East
- Terrorism and international law
- Islam, Israel and international law
- Christianity, Israel and international law

#### 3.2. Research/Publications Projects

- *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 EU's two-state policy – Phase 2* – a research project leading to a report on the evolution of the relationship between European countries and Israel under international law since the 1970's, providing evidence that international law has been unfairly interpreted and applied to Israel and the Jewish people.
- *Israel on Trial* – an updated edition of the book *Israel on Trial*. We hope to have this book published by a reputable publisher (e.g. Brill, Routledge, or Springer).

#### 3.3. Regular Publications

- Monthly *thinc.* Newsletter
- Briefing and Background Papers

#### 3.4. Publishing

We will endeavour to enter into an agreement for publication of our monographs by a reputable publisher (e.g. Brill, Routledge, or Springer).

### 4. Education and Communications

#### 4.1. Education

##### 4.1.1. On-line Courses

- Online course *Israel and the Middle East in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* - in partnership with Reichman University (IDC Herzliya) in Israel (tbc)
- An on-line course *Understanding Israel from a Biblical Perspective* for Young Christians – in partnership with Johannes Gerloff, Kingdom Faith Church and Christians for Israel International
- Online *Leadership Training Courses* - in partnership with ELNET
- University Law School Course(s) based on *Cases & Materials* (tbd)

#### 4.1.2. Lectures, Seminars and Workshops

On invitation, *thinc.* experts are available to give lectures and speak at events.

#### 4.1.3. Video Explainers

A series of short video *explainers* on topical issues, produced in cooperation with Christians for Israel International.

#### 4.1.4. Conversations

A monthly on-line interview with a leading personality or expert (hosted by Andrew Tucker).

### 4.2. Communications

A Communications Plan will be developed in early 2022, covering *inter alia* a strategy for:

- Content creation
- Social Media
- Other channels

## 5. Consulting and Advice

We will endeavour to acquire several consulting assignments from governments, political parties and others engaged in civil society 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. To that end, we will i.a. engage with partner organisations operating in this domain.

## 6. Supporters and Sponsors

We will continue to send out our *Newsletters* on a monthly basis 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. Donors

Fundraising to encourage and invite people to make donations to support our work. (Part of Communications Plan)

### 6.2. Friends of *thinc.*

We will continue the 'Friends of *thinc.*' program we launched in November 2020. 'Friends of *thinc.*' is a group of individuals, enterprises, foundations and funds who provide ongoing financial support to enable the work of *thinc.* On 1 November 2021, we have 50 Friends

### 6.3. *thinc.*-partners

'*thinc.*-Partners' are individuals, enterprises and organisations who enter into a long-term partnership with *thinc.* on the basis of (mutual) strategic interest. *thinc.*-Partners provide ongoing financial support to *thinc.* whereas *thinc.* will support the Partner with specific *content* tailored to the Partner's needs.

## 7. Budget

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

Income	Euro x 1000
Project grants	12
Consultancy	2
Courses	22
Book and report sales	3
Donations	96
Reserve	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>

#### Clarification

- *Donations* includes (incidental) donations from donors, Friends of *thinc.* and *thinc.*-Partners.
- The financial reserve per year-end 2021 is estimated at Euro 54,000.

Operational costs	Euro x 1000
Research	30
Education	50
Communication	29
Consulting	13
Office + expenses	22
Management	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>

#### Clarification

- *Education* covers the costs of the development and delivery of educational programs.
- *Office + expenses* includes the costs of ICT, travel and lodging, and the rent of the office at Bergstraat 33 in Amersfoort.
- *Management* covers general management and project management.