

# Annual Report 2021



think.

ISRAEL *and* INTERNATIONAL LAW



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IBAN: **NL 15 INGB 0007 8215 39**  
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ING Bank, The Netherlands





# Contents

1.	Report of the Board	1
2.	Future	3
3.	Organisation	5
4.	Financial statement	6
5.	Budget 2022	7



# 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 the *thinc.* foundation 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 the mutual relations with the Arabic/Muslim countries. The normalisation of the relations between Israel on the one hand and Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates on the other, documented in the Abraham Accords, signify a positive change in the relations between Israel and its “neighbors”, and can potentially have a huge impact on foreign policies towards Israel worldwide.

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 and diplomacy,
- 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 four times to discuss the development of the organization, the strategy for the period 2022-2023 and, especially, the prioritization of activities, staffing and financing. We are pleased to report that as of July, Prof. Gregory Rose (University of Wollongong) has joined our Academic Advisory Board.

*thinc.* enjoys the so-called ‘ANBI status’. This is a non-profit tax designation as *charitable trust* 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 2021

Most energy has been invested in research, publications and the organizing of courses and webinars.

#### **Research and Publications**

The research and pertaining publications focused on four topics:

- (i) a review of the role played by international law in the development of the EU’s ‘Palestinian statehood policy’ and its implementation in the UN from 1980 to today. The review Report will be published in the Spring of 2022;
- (ii) the ruling of the Pre-trial Chamber of the ICC that Palestine constitutes a State under the Rome Statute;
- (iii) Hamas’ hostilities in May 2021 in light of International Humanitarian Law;
- (iv) research aimed at the creation of a balanced academic publication about international law, Israeli-Arab relations and the Israel/Palestine conflict.

International law experts from the *thinc.* network have published *inter alia* seven articles, three blogs, two briefing papers, four commentaries, nine op-eds and a report on the *thinc.* website.

We have published nine Newsletters addressing actual topics and/or special subjects to 1500 subscribers.

The extended edition of ‘*The Hague Statement of jurists on the Israel-Palestine conflict*’ was translated into Italian.

55 copies of the book ‘*Israel on Trial*’ by Dr. M. de Blois and A. Tucker were either sold or presented to (prospective) relations.

#### **Courses and Webinars**

We have run several topical webinars throughout the year, including a briefing about the situation in Israel due to the hostilities by Hamas in May, and an introduction to the ICC and its ruling regarding the “situation in Palestine”.

During the Spring we have conducted a series of four online conversations with various experts on ‘The ICC and UN resolutions’, ‘The Abraham Accords’, ‘The conflict between Fatah and Hamas: the end of Oslo’ and ‘The War of Return’.

Following a successful webinar about the ICC, organised in cooperation with the European Leadership Network (ELNET), we have given a five-part online leadership training in partnership with ELNET\_France. The aim of this course was to give insight into the way international law is used and abused by different actors in relation to the Israel/Palestine conflict, and to present options for a new approach of the conflict.

Video recordings and Podcasts of the online events are posted on the *thinc.* website.

### **Consulting and Advice**

We have consulted with politicians in multiple countries about the ruling of the ICC regarding the “situation in Palestine”, and the intended, controversial celebration of the Durban declaration of 2001 by the UN in September.

### **COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had little impact on our work. All events were organized online without significant loss of content. A positive side-effect is the reduction of time and money spent on travelling. However, the personal contact is sorely missed as we are a relatively small group actively fighting against lawfare.

## **2. Future**

In 2022 *thinc.* will focus its activities on (i) three strategic projects, (ii) the development and delivery of (online) courses, and (iii) engaging more international law academics in our research activities.

### **ACTIVITIES IN 2022**

#### **Research and publications**

In 2021 we will be working on three strategic projects:

- A. *Cases, Materials and Commentaries* – a research project started in 2020, leading to a balanced academic publication about international law, Israeli-Arab relations and the Israel/Palestine conflict. This publication will enable courses to be offered at universities and other institutions around the world, in which the position of Israel, the Jewish people and the Israel-Palestine conflict are placed in their appropriate legal, historical, political and religious context.

- B. *The EU, the Middle East Peace process and international law – a review.* This research project started in 2021. The outcome will be a report on the evolution of the relationship between European countries and Israel under international law since 1967. Phase I will be concluded with the publishing of the report (1Q 2022), Phase II covers the distribution of the report including workshops and seminars.
- C. *International Criminal Court (ICC): the “situation in Palestine”* – special project. We will continue to play an active role in seeking to prevent that the ICC will investigate or prosecute Israeli leaders for so-called war crimes in Palestine.

### **Engagement**

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

### **Young *thinc.* network**

We intend to establish an online platform to provide young (law) students and graduates a safe environment where they can be free to focus their talents and energy without facing ramifications of adverse reactions from the outside, and engage with experienced academics and professionals.

### **Seminars and conferences**

New seminars are planned about *inter alia* the proceedings at the ICC regarding the “situation in Palestine“, Arab-Israel relations, specifically the Abraham Accords, and the future of the Two-state Solution. The events will be organized in cooperation with local/regional partners and sponsors where possible.

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.

### **Educational program**

We will develop courses for specific target groups, including *academia* (students, teachers and institutions), *civil society* (politicians, diplomats, policy makers and influencers) and *Christian audiences* (individuals, churches and Christian organisations).



## 3. Organisation

Name: Stichting The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (*thinc.*)

Statutory seat: The Hague

Email address: [info@thinc.info](mailto:info@thinc.info)

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

Fiscal nr (RSIN): 857611112

Chamber of Commerce nr (KvK nr): 68830084

*thinc.* is a registered **ANBI** (*charitable trust*) 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 Management Team. The Supervisory Board consisted of Mr. P.M.A. America (as of 1 November), Mr. G.M.C. Cremer Eindhoven (chair) and Mr. M. Malotaux. Mr. Cremer Eindhoven resigned on 31 December.

The Management Team consists of

- Mr. P.J. Hoogendoorn – Director Operations
- Mr. A.E.L. Tucker – Program Director

Board members are appointed for a period of five years and can subsequently be reappointed.

### OPERATIONS

The Program Director conducts research and makes proposals for the research, publications and educational programs to the Board. He is assisted by the Senior Fellows, the Academic Advisory Board and 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 Operations.

The Management Team is assisted by the Academic Advisory Board, consisting of Prof. G. Rose (Wollongong University, Australia), Prof. R. Sabel (Hebrew University, Israel) and Prof. Dr. L. Thio (National University of Singapore).

Throughout the year, Prof. Dr. W. Bock (emeritus, Univ. of Giessen) and Mrs. A.R. Schlechter (Univ. of Vienna) were (part-time) members of our project teams.

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

The Directors and project members are financially rewarded. The Board members, Advisors and Senior Fellows work on a voluntary basis, their expenses are reimbursed.

#### FRIENDS OF *THINC.*

The 'Friends of *thinc.*' program was launched in 2020. Friends of *thinc.* are persons and partner organisations who make a multi-year commitment to support *thinc.* financially. *thinc.*-partners are provided with extra information and services, such as articles, lectures and advice.

By year-end 2021 we had 50 friends and partners who jointly accounted for 95% of the donation income.

## 4. Financial statement

#### BALANCE SHEET PER 31 DECEMBER 2021

Assets		Liabilities	
Books	€ 4.065	Equity	€ 92.346
Accounts receivable	€ 12.138	Accrued liabilities	€ 191
Liquidities	€ 76.334		
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 92.537</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 92.537</b>

#### INCOME STATEMENT

Income 2021	
Margin book & report sales	€ 382
Donations	€ 86.289
Grants	€ 14.435
Other income	€ 5.938
Gross income	€ 107.044
Operating costs	€ 87.036
<b>Net income</b>	<b>€ 20.008</b>

The net income was added to the Equity.

## OPERATING COSTS

<b>Operating costs 2021</b>	
Research projects	€ 41.795
Seminars and lectures	€ 894
Salary costs	€ 32.420
IT and Office	€ 9.164
General costs	€ 2.763
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 87.036</b>

'IT and Office' includes the rental costs of the *thinc.* office at Bergstraat 33, Amersfoort.

## 5. Budget 2022

The budget for 2022 reflects the planned activities outlined in Section 2. In order to provide quality work, qualified staff and expert advice will be hired on a limited scale for research and project management.

We intend to recruit a Marketing and Communications Officer for the development and execution of our communication and educational program.

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Donations	€ 96.000	Research	€ 30.000
Project grants	€ 12.000	Education	€ 50.000
Courses	€ 22.000	Communication	€ 29.000
Books and Reports	€ 3.000	Consulting	€ 13.000
Consulting	€ 2.000	Management	€ 27.000
Reserve	€ 36.000	Office + expenses	€ 22.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 171.000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 171.000</b>

The Hague, 29 March 2022



P.J. Hoogendoorn, Secretary & Treasurer