

# ANNUAL REPORT NOTARIES OF EUROPE

# 20 24



**Notaries of Europe**  
Providing legal certainty



  
**ÉLECTIONS  
EUROPÉENNES  
2024**  
LES PROPOSITIONS DES NOTAIRES D'EUROPE



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**Marius  
Stračkaitis**  
2024 President  
of the CNUE



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## FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

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As I take stock of the achievements and progress made by the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) in 2024, I am proud to see a year full of major accomplishments and ambitious initiatives. I am convinced that our joint efforts have helped strengthening our profession and its central role across Europe at the service of states, citizens and businesses.

My mandate has been structured around three main areas: strengthening the notarial function in Europe, digitalising notarial activities and supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian notariat. These priorities proved crucial in a context marked by the European elections of June 2024 and the appointment of a new European Commissioner for Justice, Irishman Michael McGrath. The CNUE has also embarked on the electoral campaign with the publication of its manifesto for European political decision-makers. Our involvement was key to contributing to the European decision-making process and shaping the kind of Europe our citizens expect.

Supporting our Ukrainian neighbours has also always been at the very heart of my work. In view of the major challenges facing Ukraine, we have been providing practical assistance to the Ukrainian notariat for several years now. A key moment in 2024 was our September conference in Vilnius, where we brought together representatives of the highest political institutions, experts and notaries from all over Europe to discuss how to strengthen the rule of law and the role played by the notarial profession in the current exceptional circumstances we are experiencing.

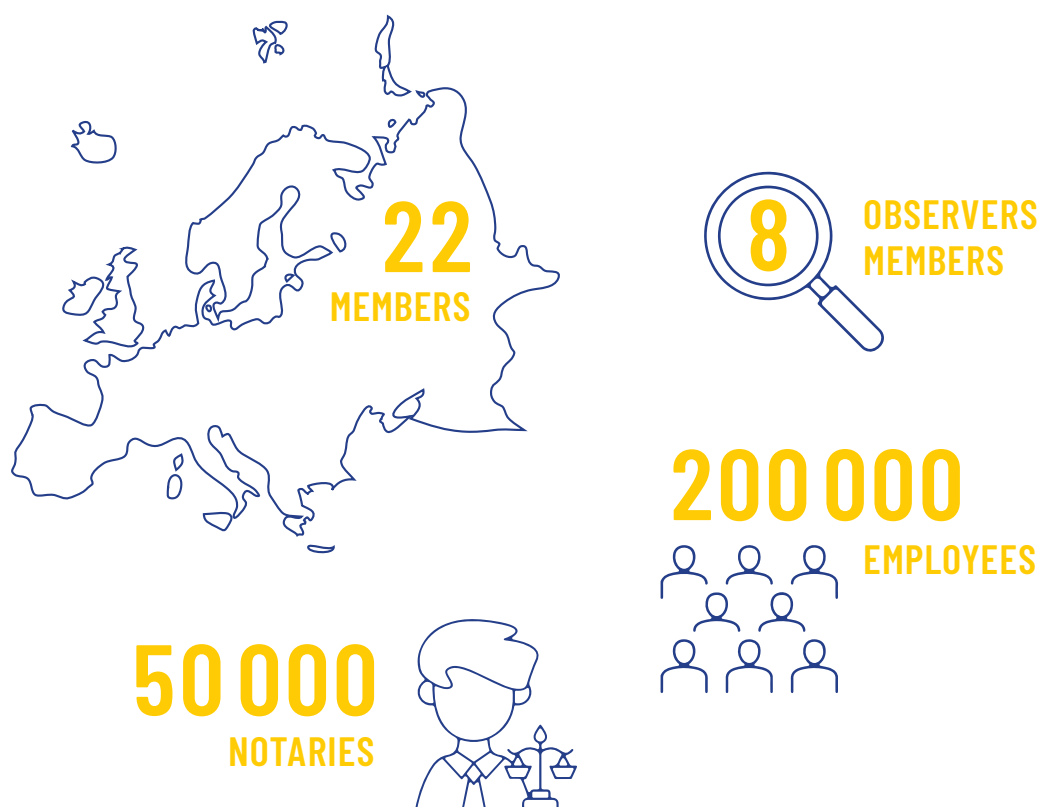
The CNUE's external action was also manifested by the integration into our ranks of three new observer members: the notariats of Albania, Georgia and Moldova. This important step on the road to European integration brings these notariats closer to their European counterparts.

Together, we have worked for a strong, innovative and supportive European notariat. As we look to the future, I am confident that we will continue to build on these solid foundations to meet the challenges ahead.



## THE CNUE TODAY

The **CNUE (Council of the Notariats of the European Union)** now represents the notariats of 22 Member States of the European Union, as well as 8 notariats with observer status, to the European institutions. The CNUE's mission is to promote the notariat and its active contribution to any decision-making processes of the European Union that affect the legal aspects of citizenship and running a business, access to justice and consumer protection.



More info on:



[www.notariesofeurope.eu](http://www.notariesofeurope.eu)



@EUnotaries



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# REVIEW OF THE YEAR







**2024 Priorities:**

- *Strengthening the notarial function*
- *Digitalisation of notarial activities*
- *Supporting Ukraine*

## MARIUS STRAČKAITIS BECOMES THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CNUE

11 January 2024

At the Handover Ceremony in Vilnius on Thursday 11 January, **Lithuanian notary Marius Stračkaitis became the new President of the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) for 2024**, succeeding German notary Dr. Peter Stelmaszczyk.

With the participation of high-level guests, such as the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, Ewelina Dobrowolska, the Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, Irena Haase, and the President of the International Union of Notaries (UINL), Lionel Galliez, President Marius Stračkaitis outlined the priorities of his work programme for the coming months, in the context of the June European elections: strengthening the notarial function in Europe, digitalising notarial activities and supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian notariat. President Stračkaitis has endeavored to structure his actions for 2024 around this triple agenda.



**CNUE**  
press release



★ Discover our eLearning platform on [www.enn-rne.eu](http://www.enn-rne.eu).

## LAUNCH OF THE EL@N II TRAINING PROGRAMME

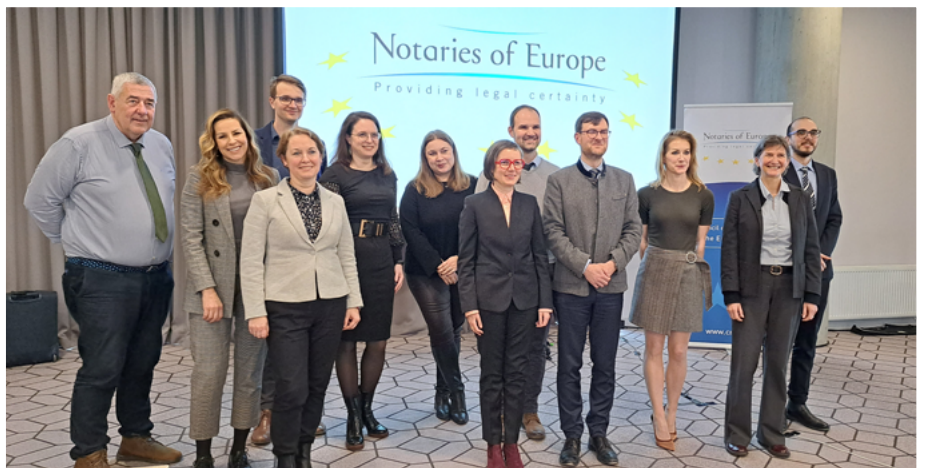
12 January 2024

The EL@N II project, co-funded by the European Union, was officially launched on 12 January 2024 in Vilnius. Under the leadership of Marc Wilmus, Chair of the CNUE Training Working Group, and in the presence of representatives of all consortium partners, the meeting laid the groundwork for the implementation of **five strategic training modules for European notaries**. These modules cover key topics: **succession law, anti-money laundering, cross-border enforcement of authentic instruments, English language training for notaries, and promoting gender equality in the notarial profession**.

The working groups' chairs presented their development plans for these modules, which will gradually be accessible on the CNUE eLearning platform via the website of the European Notarial Network (ENN - [www.enn-rne.eu](http://www.enn-rne.eu)). In addition, EL@N II will provide an interactive framework for notaries to train and exchange experiences through seminars and webinars.



More information on the EL@N II programme





*Our concrete proposals for finding solutions to the problems facing European citizens and businesses.*

## THE CNUE GETS INVOLVED IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

2 February 2024

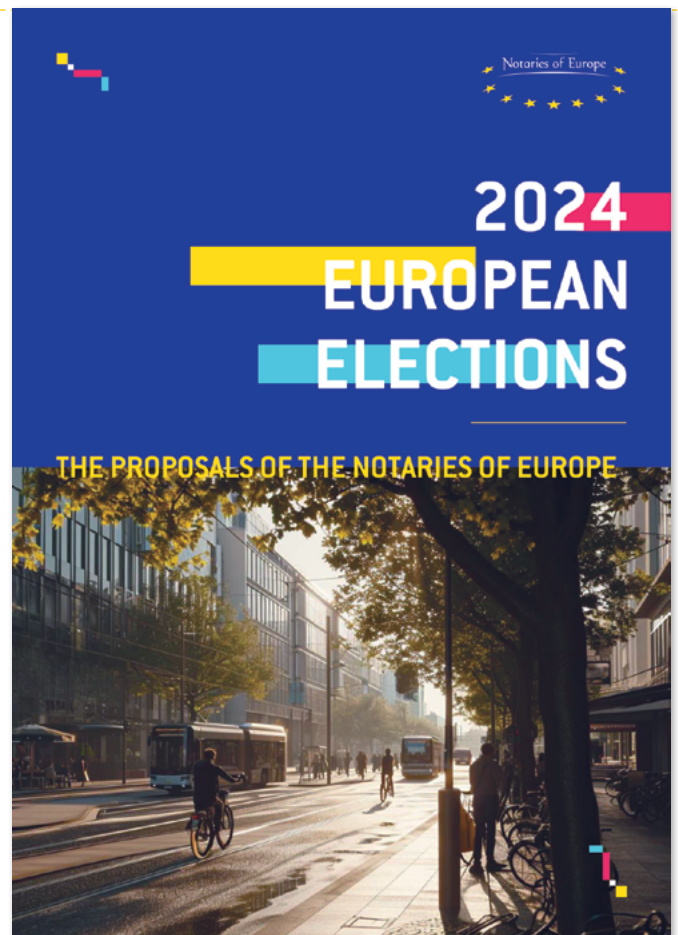
In the run-up to the European elections in June, the CNUE has published a series of priorities for future MEPs, members of the European Commission and the Council of the EU.

These proposals are structured around seven main themes:

- **Ensuring legal certainty in an increasingly uncertain digital world**
- **Better protecting citizens' rights**
- **Facilitating the settlement of successions in Europe**
- **Promoting the reliability of registers**
- **Acting in the fight against money laundering**
- **Fostering the development of non-litigious justice in Europe**
- **Standing by Ukraine**



[Read the manifesto](#)





*His dedication, vision and commitment to the notariat will remain a source of inspiration for future generations.*



**HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE CNUE, GIANCARLO LAURINI, PASSED AWAY**

28 February 2024

The CNUE paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Giancarlo Laurini, emblematic figure of the worldwide notariat, who passed away on 28 February 2024. He was President of the UINL from 2005 to 2007, of the CNUE from 1995 to 1996 and of the National Council of the Italian Notariat, from 1991 to 1998 and from 2010 to 2013. He left a lasting mark on the notarial profession through his commitment and vision.

Giancarlo Laurini was professor of commercial law at the Federico II University of Naples, the oldest State University in the world, he also wrote numerous scientific and professional publications. He founded and directed the journal *Notariato* and several editorial series of the Wolters Kluwer group.

He was involved in political and social activities, he was a member of the Italian Parliament, member of the National Council of Economy and Labour, Commissioner of the National Order of Accountants, and he also chaired the Committee of Italian Professions.

His dedication, vision and commitment to the notariat will remain a source of inspiration for future generations.







## CNUE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 March 2024

The CNUE held its first General Assembly of the year on 15 March 2024 in Brussels. At the opening session, the participants paid tribute to Mr. Giancarlo Laurini, who recently passed away. This session marked the first participation of Mr. Vincent Tilman, the new Secretary-General of the CNUE, who presented his priorities and vision for the organisation.

The work carried out covered major topics, including the legislative package under discussion on cross-border protection of adults, which is expected to be adopted after the European elections. Participants also welcomed progress on anti-money laundering and digitalisation of company law dossiers. The Assembly approved the inclusion of the Georgian notariat as an observer member, a decision celebrated at the Plenary General Assembly in Vilnius on 12 June 2024.

In the afternoon, Mr. Philipp Schulmeister, Campaign Director at the European Parliament, presented the #UseYourVote campaign to encourage participation in the European elections from 6 to 9 June 2024. The CNUE agreed to become an institutional partner, underlining its commitment to raising European citizens' awareness of the importance of voting.



★ *The non-political #UseYourVote campaign aimed to raise awareness of the importance of going out to vote in the European elections in June 2024.*



*Guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence by notaries are being drawn up.*

## 13<sup>th</sup> CNUE FUTUROLOGY FORUM

26 March 2024

The first 2024 edition of the CNUE Futurology Forum was held in Vilnius, exploring the future of legal services, where legal expertise and technological innovation intersect. Led by Marius Stračkaitis, President of the CNUE, and Tamás Parti, President of the Forum, the event addressed key topics, such as governance and data management, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in legal processes, and legal challenges related to copyright in AI systems. Particular attention has been paid to AI in identification procedures and the fight against money laundering.

The afternoon focused on the integration of big data and AI in the notariat, with concrete examples, such as a chatbot pilot project designed to guide citizens in notarial procedures. The discussions concluded with proposals for guidelines for the integration of AI into the profession.

A video message from MEP Brando Benifei highlighted the importance of the discussions on the EU AI Act and encouraged notaries to continue their innovation efforts.





## 34<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NOTARIES

18-19 April 2024

The 34<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Notaries, organised by the Austrian Chamber of Notaries, was held in Salzburg on 18 and 19 April. High-level speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament and leading international experts provided input and views to the 200 participants on 'Europe's Digital Decade – Artificial Intelligence & Digital Transformation'.

CNUE President Marius Stračkaitis opened the conference and addressed the urgent issue of artificial intelligence. He mentioned its current use by several European notariats, while reiterating the need to keep the final decision-making power in the hands of notaries themselves, which ensures the preservation of legal certainty.

Artificial intelligence was also at the heart of the discussions of the first panel, entitled 'Artificial intelligence: Authenticity and the rule of law in a context of growing disinformation', with Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director-General for Communications, Networks, Content and Technology at the European Commission, Karel Lannoo, Director-General of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), and Lukas Mandl, Member of the European Parliament.

In the afternoon, a second panel was dedicated to the European Commission's flagship initiative, the Digital Decade, which sets ambitious targets for 2030 to ensure Europe's digital leadership. Finally, a final panel examined how these developments affect EU judicial policy when it comes to being relevant for citizens in the context of the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and, in particular, the current initiative on inclusion in the protection of adults. Marie Vautravers, Secretary of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters, European Commission, and Evelyn Regner, Vice-President of the European Parliament, contributed to the discussions.



*The Digital Decade was at the very heart of the debates at this 2024 edition.*





## SEMINAR ON CROSS-BORDER PROTECTION OF ADULTS

25 April 2024

On 25 April, particularly fruitful exchanges took place within the framework of the international seminar organised by the CNUE and the International Council of the Belgian Notariat. The event, on the theme of "Cross-border protection of vulnerable adults", was part of the annual programme of activities of the ENN, supported by the European Commission.

In his introduction, Mr. Anthony Leleu, President of the National Chamber of Belgium, recalled the social and legal challenges involved. Belgian notary Lisbeth Michielsens then drew up a comprehensive representation of the tools available to notaries to help them deal with their cross-border cases: the European Directory of Notaries, the information websites, the e-Justice portal and, of course, the ENN platform (<http://www.enn-rne.eu/>).

Ms. Lenka Vysoka, Legal and Policy Officer at the European Commission, referred to the legislative package published by the European Commission in May 2023. It includes a proposal for a Council Decision requiring all Member States to be parties to the Hague Convention of 13 January 2000 on the Protection of Adults and a proposal for a Regulation to facilitate both the determination of the courts having jurisdiction in Member States and of the applicable law, as well as the recognition and enforcement of protective measures taken in another Member State.

Her intervention was followed by a round table, the aim of which was to provide an overview of national situations regarding judicial and extrajudicial protection measures in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. These exchanges were the first step in the work carried out by small groups of participants, which enabled us to gain a better understanding of the national frameworks of the various Member States.

The next day, the ENN national interlocutors held their first annual meeting. On the agenda, the establishment of a cooperation framework with the European Judicial Network, access for Serbian notaries to the ENN online platform, and substantive discussions on the tools and functionalities made available on it.





## CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN JUDICIAL TRAINING

25-26 April 2024

The CNUE and ten member notariats played a major role at the European conference on judicial training, organised by the European Commission and dedicated to the digitalisation of justice. This event highlighted the importance of notaries and their specific training needs in the face of the digital transformation of legal systems. The interventions highlighted challenges related to areas such as anti-money laundering, inheritance (including digital inheritance), company law and data protection.

Discussions focused on the need to equip justice professionals, including notaries, to adapt to the requirements of the e-Justice Regulation and changes in legal frameworks. The conference stressed the importance of personalised training initiatives to enable notaries to thrive in a changing digital environment. As the current training plan comes to an end, the next European training strategy is of paramount importance in preparing notaries to respond to new challenges while preserving legal certainty at the service of citizens. The CNUE is proud to be able to make its contribution.



*The conference stressed the importance of personalised training initiatives to enable notaries to thrive in a changing digital environment.*



*The CNUE mobilised its 22 member notariats and nearly 50,000 notaries across the European Union to raise awareness of the importance of voting.*

## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: MEETING WITH EP PRESIDENT ROBERTA METSOLA

6 May 2024

In early May, the European Parliament hosted a reception bringing together institutional partners of the #UseYourVote campaign, aimed at encouraging citizen participation in the June European elections. The CNUE is actively involved in this initiative, mobilising its 22 member notariats and nearly 50,000 notaries across the European Union to raise awareness of the importance of voting.

During this event, Mr. Vincent Tilman, Secretary-General of the CNUE, reaffirmed this commitment to Ms. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, highlighting the fundamental role played by notaries in strengthening the rule of law, an essential pillar of European democracies.







Four ECSs registers are now interconnected via the ENRWA.

## THE BELGIAN REGISTER OF EUROPEAN CERTIFICATES OF SUCCESSION IS NOW INTERCONNECTED

27 May 2024

Since 27 May 2024, the Belgian register of European Certificates of Succession (ECS) can be queried by the French, Luxembourg and Dutch registers, which are already interconnected by the European Network of Registers of Wills (ENRW).

The interconnection of ECSs registers facilitates the implementation of European Regulation No 650/2012 on cross-border successions, which entered into force in 25 EU Member States on 17 August 2015. The Regulation introduced the ECS to make life easier for heirs and legatees in their cross-border transactions. The purpose of this European instrument is to establish the qualities of the persons called upon to participate in the winding up of a succession.

The Regulation also lays down an obligation for signatory States to retain information on ECSs. Each Member State has defined a court and a competent authority for the purpose of issuing the ECS and the arrangements for registering and retaining ECSs. In November 2023, the CNUE recommended that the EU considers requiring Member States to create a public register for the registration of ECSs and interconnect it through the ENRW ([Report on the application of the European Regulation, Recommendation #15](#)).



More information on the [website](#) of the European Network of Registers of Wills' Association (ENRWA)





*How far we have come is remarkable. The ENRWA is now an efficient tool for European cooperation.'*

## INTERVIEW WITH MR. OCTAVIAN ROGOJANU, PRESIDENT OF THE ENRWA

May 2024



### **The ENRWA has been in operation for 19 years. Can you describe how far we have come since its creation?**

It all started in 2002 with a visionary proposal from French and Belgian notaries. The increased mobility of citizens in Europe confronted notaries with cross-border successions that were not always easy to resolve. The idea was to facilitate access to information on the existence of a last will in another European country, thus reducing the risk that this will would remain unknown or be found late. In the following years, with the support of the CNUE, other notariats joined this initiative. Today, 21 European notariats are members of the ENRWA. How far we have come is remarkable, and the ENRWA is now an effective tool for European cooperation.

### **How does the ENRWA contribute to facilitating and simplifying successions at European level?**

The ENRWA offers an efficient and secure tool to easily obtain information on the existence of a will. All European countries that have a register of last wills can interconnect it via the European Network of Registers of Wills. This digital platform allows users of national registers, mainly notaries, to send and receive queries from other European registers.

The process is very easy for notaries: they query via the interface of their national register. If a will is found in a succession case, the notary will receive the address of the notary holding the will a few days later. And if no will is found, they will receive a negative answer, which will reassure them for the continuation of the succession process.

Nowadays, 13 registers of last wills are interconnected via our network. In 2023, more than 5000 requests were made on the platform and nearly 700 last wills were found. And since 2015, and the adoption of European Regulation 650/2012, we have also proposed interconnecting European Certificates of Succession (ECS): four members have already interconnected their registers and this number is increasing every year.

### **In 2025, the ENRW will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and anniversaries are always an opportunity not only to reflect on the past, but also to set new goals for the future. Could you tell us about some of these future objectives?**

I am pleased to represent the ENRWA next year to celebrate 20 years of hard and effective work. It has been a remarkable journey and we are delighted that our work is now recognised by the profession and by the European institutions.

We can still improve and one of our goals is to interconnect more registers of last wills and ESCs. We have identified the remaining obstacles. We have also drawn up a communication plan to make notaries aware of the network, with the aim of increasing the number of queries. Finally, we will continue strengthening our partnership with all notarial networks, the CNUE and judicial networks. I believe that a prosperous European Union requires the notariat to work towards legal certainty for all citizens and to set an example of cross-border cooperation.



## THE CNUE OFFICIALLY WELCOMES THREE NEW OBSERVER MEMBERS

12 June 2024

On 12 June 2024, the Plenary General Assembly of the CNUE member and observer member notariats was held in Vilnius, marking a historic turning point for the organisation. This memorable moment was marked by an official welcoming ceremony for three new observer members: the notariats of Albania, Georgia and Moldova. High-level representatives of the notarial and political institutions of these three countries took the floor, stressing the importance of this symbolic step that brings these notariats closer to their European counterparts and marks a step forward in their European integration.

The Lithuanian Minister of Justice, Ewelina Dobrowolska, welcomed this achievement, highlighting the opportunity offered by the CNUE to benefit from a network of experts, exchange best practices and have an interface for dialogue with the European institutions. She also stressed the importance of the CNUE's support for Ukraine and its notariat, underlining European solidarity in the face of the crisis.

Lionel Galliez, President of the UINL, the First Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia, Tamar Tkeshelachvili, as well as the Ministers of Justice of Albania, Ulsi Manja, and Moldova, Veronica Michailov-Moraru, expressed their enthusiasm, stressing the importance of this cooperation in European integration and the strengthening of the role of the notariat within the EU institutions. The General Assembly was also marked by the intervention of Volodymyr Marchenko, President of the Ukrainian notariat, who expressed his gratitude to the CNUE for its support since the beginning of the conflict, specifying how the assistance provided was concretely implemented on the ground.

Finally, members of the Assembly exchanged views on the results of the recent European elections and the upcoming appointments to the highest positions in the EU. These discussions made it possible to address the challenges and opportunities for the European notariat in this evolving institutional context.



Watch the [video](#) of the highlights of the General Assembly







## CONFERENCE ON UKRAINE

13 September 2024

On 13 September 2024, the CNUE organised a conference in Vilnius on 'Strengthening the Rule of Law and the Notariat: Insights from European Union Members and Ukraine'. This conference, initiated by the Lithuanian Presidency of the CNUE, highlighted the tremendous challenges Ukraine has faced since the beginning of the war, particularly in terms of the rule of law and judicial efficiency. Representatives of Lithuanian, Ukrainian and European institutions exchanged under the moderation of CNUE President Marius Stračkaitis.

In his opening speech, he highlighted the key elements for a strong notarial profession, such as the status of the notary as a member of the legal profession, high ethical standards and the use of digital processes. Ewelina Dobrowolska, Minister of Justice of Lithuania, and Gabija Grigaitė-Daugirdė, Deputy Minister of Justice, recalled that the independence of notaries is essential to the rule of law. Dainius Žalimas, Member of the European Parliament, also highlighted the key role played by notaries as guardians of the rule of law.

Yevhen Horovets, Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, praised the resistance of Ukrainian notaries who, despite the difficult conditions, continue to ensure legal certainty. Anna Jarosz-Friis, Director of the Ukraine Service in DG NEAR of the European Commission, welcomed the support of the European notariat in the process of Ukraine's integration into the EU. Volodymyr Marchenko, President of the Chamber of Notaries of Ukraine, highlighted the ongoing reforms and requested the assistance of the CNUE for the integration of Ukraine into the EU, including on the dematerialisation of registers. Finally, Jens Bormann, President of the Bundesnotarkammer, detailed the material, financial and legal support that can be provided to the profession after the end of hostilities.



Watch the [video](#) of the highlights of the conference



## ENN TRANSNATIONAL FORUM

3-4 October 2024

This year, the ENN Transnational Forum was held in Bad Radkersburg, Austria, on 3-4 October 2024. This event brought together experienced notaries and legal experts from Italy, Austria, Croatia and Slovenia to discuss the application of Regulation (EU) No 650/2012, also known as the International Succession Regulation.

The Forum provided a unique opportunity for participants to present and discuss concrete cases, exploring diverse legal approaches and perspectives. These collaborative exchanges led to valuable conclusions on the practical application of the Regulation in different legal contexts.



*Understanding the application of Regulation (EU) n°650/2012 via a transnational approach.*





## DIGITAL INHERITANCE SEMINAR

17 October 2024

On 17 October 2024, the Budapest Chamber of Notaries hosted a seminar entitled 'Digital Inheritance in Europe: Current Challenges and Legal Perspectives'. Organised by the Hungarian Chamber of Civil Law Notaries in collaboration with the ENN, this event aimed to address the growing challenges and legal complexities related to digital inheritance.

The seminar started with an introduction by Mr. Tamás Parti, Vice-President of the Hungarian Chamber of Notaries, who stressed the need for a clear legal framework to deal with digital assets after death.

A key moment of the seminar was the presentation made by Mr. Tamás Sajben of the Hungarian Chamber of Notaries. He introduced the European Law Institute (ELI) project on developing model rules for succession of digital assets and access to personal data, aiming to create a framework respecting national laws while reconciling the privacy of the deceased and the rights of heirs.

The seminar also included national case studies, with interventions by Mr. Gonzalo Cano Mora, notary in Spain, and Mr. Theo Leyh, legal adviser to the Dutch notariat, who shared their experiences and recent developments on digital inheritance in their respective countries. The panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Tamás Sajben and Mr. Tamás Parti, highlighted cross-border challenges and the role of notaries in the transfer of digital assets, highlighting the need for European regulations to harmonise legal approaches.



*This event aimed to address the growing challenges and legal complexities related to digital inheritance.*





*Notaries manage sensitive information and must guarantee their security in an environment where cyberattacks are on the rise.*

## 14<sup>th</sup> CNUE FUTUROLOGY FORUM: CYBERSECURITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

5 November 2024

The 14<sup>th</sup> CNUE Futurology Forum, hosted by the Conseil supérieur du notariat (CSN) in Paris, focused on a major challenge for the profession: the issue of cybersecurity in the digital age.

CNUE President Marius Stračkaitis stressed that with the increasing digitalisation of notarial services, new cyber threats are emerging, such as DDoS attacks and ransomware. He stressed the need for advanced technologies and robust security measures to ensure an innovative and secure digital transition.

The President of the CSN, Bertrand Savouré, reiterated the importance of collective action at European level. According to him, 'The security of the largest office is linked to that of the smallest.' This call for cooperation emphasises that each office, regardless of its size, plays a crucial role in the security of the entire notarial profession.

Among the keynote speeches of this forum, Professor Thibaud Douville presented the challenges related to the updated European Directive on cybersecurity. This Directive aims to strengthen responses to growing threats and strengthen the digital defenses of notarial services across Europe.





*For the first time in the history of the CNUE, a woman was elected president: Ms. Cosita Delvaux, a notary in Luxembourg, was unanimously appointed to lead the CNUE in 2025.*

## LUXEMBOURG NOTARY COSITA DELVAUX, ELECTED PRESIDENT FOR 2025

13 December 2024

On 13 December, the CNUE General Assembly was held in Brussels, marking an important milestone for the organisation. Indeed, for the first time in the history of the CNUE, a woman was elected president: Ms. Cosita Delvaux, a notary in Luxembourg, was unanimously appointed to lead the CNUE in 2025.

In her opening speech, Cosita Delvaux outlined the broad lines of her mandate, with particular emphasis on:

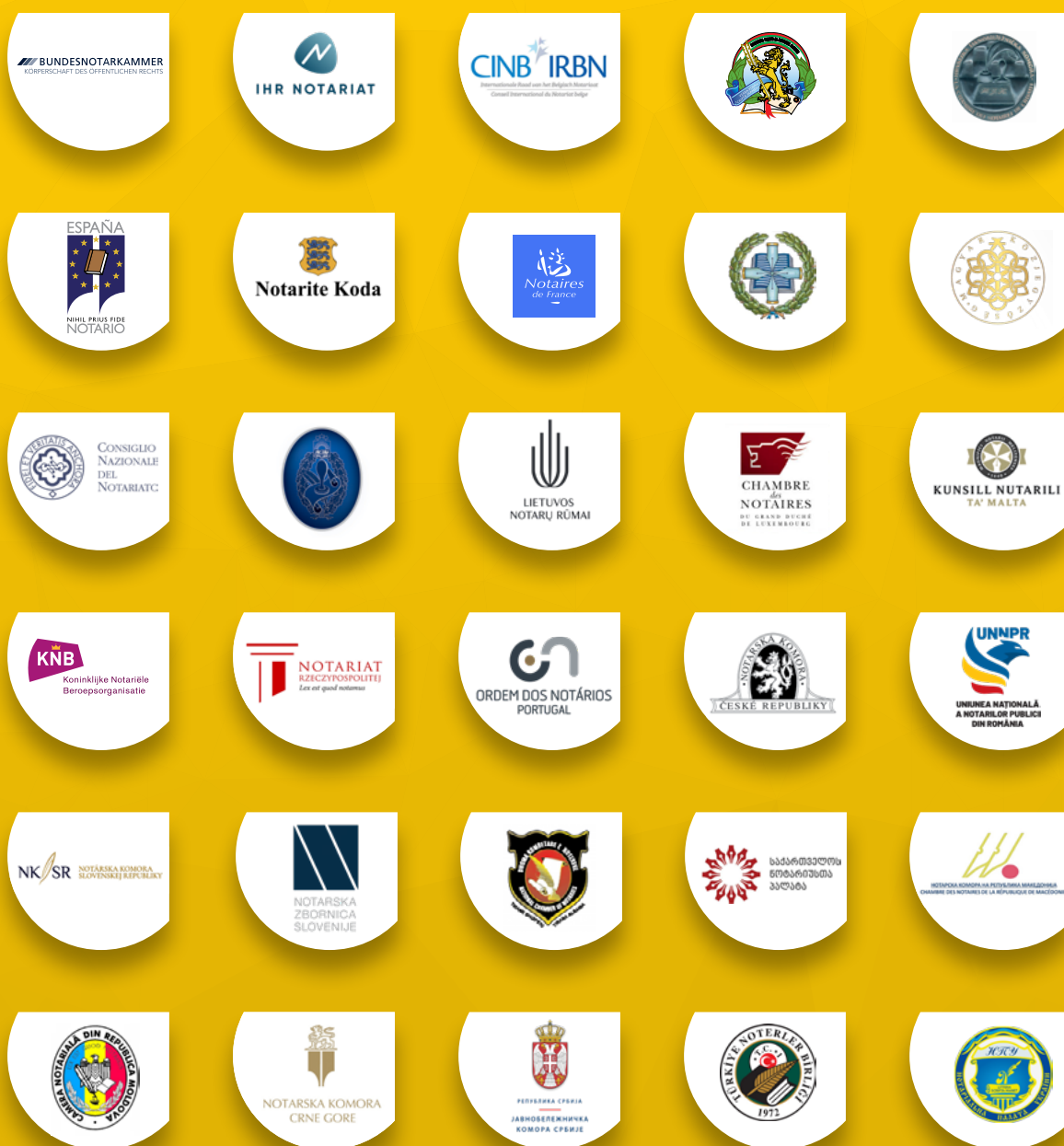
- **Cross-border protection of adults:** a key issue, with a legislative package currently being discussed.
- **Cybersecurity:** in order to respond to the growing challenges of digital technologies.
- **The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Regulation on international successions:** an opportunity to reaffirm the central role of notaries alongside European citizens.

Alongside Ms. Cosita Delvaux, Mr. Roland Wadge, President of the Maltese notariat, was elected Vice-President.

Finally, the General Assembly also decided to renew its financial support to the charitable foundation of the Ukrainian notariat. This initiative testifies to the constant solidarity of European notariats with their Ukrainian counterparts in the exceptional circumstances we are experiencing.



## LATEST NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS







## THE BUNDESNOTARKAMMER LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVES TO RECRUIT NOTARIAL STAFF



New Bachelor's Degree:  
Law for notarial staff (LL.B.)



NOTAR.DE



SRH University

In cooperation with

**BUNDESNOTARKAMMER**  
KÖRPERSCHAFT DES ÖFFENTLICHEN RECHTS

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, the *Bundesnotarkammer* launched a new Bachelor's degree programme called "Law for notarial staff (LL.B.)" (German: "Recht im Notariat (LL.B.)" in cooperation with the SRH University of Applied Sciences Heidelberg (SRH University). The two partners developed the entire curriculum for the dual study programme, tailored to meet the needs of notarial staff. The students will learn about the different fields of law that notaries mostly work with, including obligation, property, family and inheritance laws as well as corporate law and business law in academic courses while also continuing their work at the notary's office. In addition, the students will gain insights about the particularities of the notarial profession starting from professional obligations under the German Federal Code of Notaries to the German Authentication Act and Anti Money Laundering rules. At the same time, the curriculum is not limited to a strictly academic programme but also includes sessions on soft skills. After six semesters of studying, students will thus be equipped with the skill set necessary to thrive in the notarial office.

In order to prepare the students in the best way possible, the programme intertwines theory and practice: each semester at the SRH University starts with two weeks of in-person classes on campus, followed by fifteen weeks of virtual classes on one or two afternoons per week while the students continue to work in their respective notary's office.

This is for two reasons: firstly, this hybrid teaching format allows students to enjoy the college experience on campus. Secondly, they get the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in their day-to-day work at the notary's office. For the first group of students, in-person classes are taking place at the main campus of the SRH University in Heidelberg, but future students will also be able to take the in-person classes at other SRH campuses throughout Germany. Each year, interested students can apply until 30 June for the following academic year which starts in the fall.

For those who prefer a more practical educational experience, like an apprenticeship, the *Bundesnotarkammer* has launched a new website called "Working in the notary's office" (German: „[arbeiten-im-notariat.de](https://www.arbeiten-im-notariat.de)“). In addition to the website providing information on apprenticeship programmes, real apprentices and experienced professionals share what the job is like and why they enjoy working for a notary in short video clips. Via an interactive map, interested persons can find available apprenticeship opportunities within their vicinity. Those looking for a personal exchange can use the event calendar listing vocational training fairs and similar events. The website thereby serves as a central point of information for all aspects of training and further education opportunities.



## UPDATE ON INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

In 2024, the Austrian Chamber of Civil-Law Notaries has put a focus on internal communication. Relevant information should be made available to all notaries as easily as possible at all times.

One tool to promote this easy dissemination of information is the portal of the Austrian notariat, which went online in spring.

As a first step, it offers notaries an overview on current topics such as the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing or online legal services, working documents such as templates and presentations or the current training program of the Notarial Academy. The portal not only provides information on the employees and members of the individual organisations of the Austrian notariat, but also offers the possibility of a direct contact with the Austrian Notary Institute, which processes legal inquiries from notary's offices.

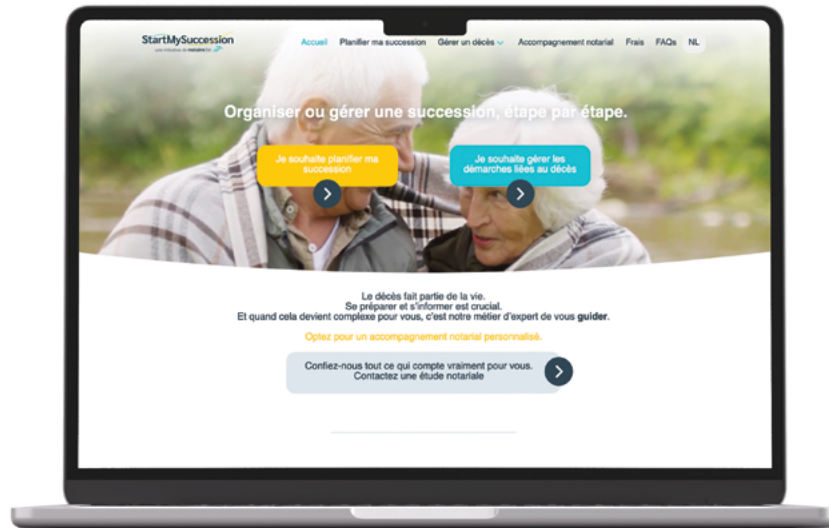
Work is already underway on the portal's further development: In the future, for example, it will be possible to create a model website for your own notary's office via this portal. In addition, a blog, which will serve as a notice board for the individual departments and specialised committees for important updates from the respective areas, is in the starting blocks.

Another way to boost internal communication is through moving images. Videos are becoming increasingly important, not only in external communication, but also in internal communication - because in the prevailing constant battle for attention, there is no way around moving images. For example, the portal gives information about strategic communication decisions per video - also about the fact that videos will play a more significant role in communication in the future.

We are also currently working on the launch of one or more newsletters. On the one hand, this channel will provide information about current training opportunities and, on the other hand, the profession will receive news from the strategy and communication areas via this channel.

In addition, there are already established channels such as the *Nota Bene* magazine, which is published bi-monthly. This magazine covers important meta topics relating to the notarial profession, shares news from the chamber and also provides relevant information from notaries and chamber employees. The spectrum ranges from legal topics to professional politics to 'soft news' about matches of the Austrian notaries' football club or meetings of notary candidates' groups.

The aim of all these measures is to provide the notariat with as much relevant information as possible. The more channels are used for this purpose, the greater the chance that the information will reach the profession.



## NEW STEPS IN THE DIGITALISATION OF THE NOTARIAL PROFESSION IN BELGIUM

### Sign your act digitally

Since April 2024, the signing of an act for a [donation](#), the [purchase of a house](#) or a loan has been carried out in a modern way. All persons physically present in the office of the same notary can now digitally sign the act in which they participate. This is also possible if the clients each go to their own notary, which allows them to follow together the explanation of the act by videoconference. This new process is allowed in Belgium thanks to the digital identity card or Itsme.

There are, however, a few exceptions: [Wills](#) and other similar dispositions of property upon death must always be signed by hand. These are very personal and confidential acts, so hand-signing continues to be mandatory.

In addition, there are also other acts for which it is no longer necessary to go physically to a [notarial office](#). This is the case for [acts of power of attorney](#) and [company acts](#). These are discussed and signed by [videoconference](#) and have been executed since 2020 for acts of power of attorney, since 2021 for acts of incorporation and since 2023 for other company acts.

### Launch of the "StartMySuccession" website

The website [www.startmysuccession.be](http://www.startmysuccession.be) contains concrete information tailored to citizens needs who, during a painful moment, no longer see the wood for the trees administratively speaking. This site provides, among other things, an overview of what to do when a loved one passed away; what should be organised in the first days, weeks and months, what documents should be collected and who should be contacted? "Startmysuccession" also explains in clear terms how, if necessary, to proceed to waive a succession, to unlock bank accounts or to write a declaration of succession. It also aims to guide citizens as they reflect on what will happen when they pass away. If they prepare well, their future heirs will thus be able to avoid many worries.

Reminder that Fednot has already set up different apps for the benefit of citizens to provide them with digital access to various tools. Next to the website [www.izimi.be](http://www.izimi.be), there are public sales online or over-the-counter on [www.biddit.be](http://www.biddit.be) or [www.estox.be](http://www.estox.be), which is the electronic and secure register of companies' shares. Citizens and entrepreneurs can use these digital tools. At the same time, notarial offices serve primarily as advisors and guides in every important stage of citizens' lives. In sensitive cases such as successions, personal and human service is more essential than ever.





## SPAIN - ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LAW 11/2023, WHICH BOOSTED THE DIGITALISATION OF NOTARIAL OFFICES

November 2024 marked the one-year anniversary of Law 11/2023. This law marked a crucial step in the digitalisation of notarial acts in Spain, allowing 2,721 notaries to provide online services via the Citizen's Notarial Portal ([www.portalnotarial.es](http://www.portalnotarial.es)), which already has more than 464,000 registered users.

Thanks to this law, notaries can now create the electronic notarial file, through which electronic copies of public acts can be generated for citizens and businesses. This avoids travel and saves time when presenting and exchanging these documents with the competent bodies. The electronic notarial act is used to create copies with a secure verification code (CSV). They are verified through the electronic notarial office.

Between 9 November 2023 and 30 October 2024, nearly 7 million electronic notarial acts have been authorised and more than 7.8 million digital copies generated, greatly facilitating administrative and economic procedures.

Electronic documents are filed in encrypted form, at the General Council of the Notariat. Only the responsible notary can access it, alike the paper documents kept in the offices. On the other hand, citizens can consult the Citizen's Notarial Portal to access all the notarial acts they have drawn up in the last 20 years and, if they wish, request copies from notaries.

As María Teresa Barea, spokesperson for the General Council of the Notariat, explains, "Since the entry into force of this law, notaries can authorise certain acts or contracts online. They can also submit electronic copies of notarial documents to citizens and companies, thus saving paper and travel time. For instance: many business people and entrepreneurs have opted to meet with notaries online in order to have them authorise the incorporation of companies, the appointment of officers, dismissals, powers of attorney, increases and reductions in capital, amendments to articles of association, changes of domicile, liquidations, etc." In one year, 3,538 acts have been signed remotely, a modest but constantly increasing figure.

The IT security of these processes is guaranteed by the use of the qualified electronic signature of notaries, the Notarial E-Office and the Notarial Private Network: these instruments have been developed by the Notarial Technology Centre.

The General Council of the Notariat obtained the high-level National Security System (ENS) for all its information systems, processes, databases, headquarters, platforms and portals for the exercise of its public duty. Security is therefore fully guaranteed.

**IN ONE YEAR,  
3,538  
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## THE CONGRESS OF FRENCH NOTARIES FACES ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Congress of French Notaries, chaired by Ms. Marie-Hélène Pero Augereau-Hue, was held in Bordeaux from 25 to 27 September 2024. Nearly 4,000 notaries and notarial professionals were present to work on the fundamental theme of this 120<sup>th</sup> edition: 'Towards sustainable urban planning: Supporting projects in the face of environmental challenges'.

Present throughout the territory to, in particular, record and analyse real estate transactions, private as well as public ones, notaries inform and advise their clients on the evolution of rights and obligations related to climate risks and imagine appropriate legal solutions.

In the current context, where the ecological emergency is becoming more and more urgent, exacerbated by a worsening environmental crisis, the 120<sup>th</sup> Congress team, convinced that law can and must play a key role in the ecological transition, and also recognising the limits of the existing legal tools in the face of the scale of the current challenges, has set itself five main ambitions:

- Better understanding natural and environmental risks, mastering and providing useful information;
- Proposing concrete and effective solutions to the realisation and success of real estate operations, taking into account the environmental issues related to climate change, while preserving nature and biodiversity;
- Recasting urban planning on the basis of sustainable development, taking into account positive externalities, implementing the ERC sequence (French acronym for Avoid – Reduce – Compensate);
- Simplifying urban planning procedures;
- Proposing, at a time when the principle of zero net land take is being put into practice in France, solutions for the reappropriation of existing land and the densification of territories while respecting nature.
- The status of trees in the Civil Code: recognising trees as living organisms whose preservation is in the general interest;
- Temporary ownership in the face of receding sea shore: introducing the concept of temporary ownership for areas threatened by coastal erosion;
- Improving the state of risks and pollution: strengthening the information of purchasers on the environmental risks related to real estate.

All adopted proposals were then forwarded, as is customary, to the French public authorities.

★ **Over 4,000 notaries and notarial professionals attended.**

Faced with the ecological emergency, notaries have therefore explored solutions to adapt the legal framework to current environmental challenges. Concretely, the debates focused on the anticipation of natural risks, the control of urban planning procedures and the transformation of practices for an environmentally-friendly urban development. The 12 proposals drawn up by the 120<sup>th</sup> Congress team were all adopted by the notaries present. Among them:

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

# L'ULTIMA VOLONTÀ



CONSIGLIO  
NAZIONALE  
DEL  
NOTARIATO

"L'ultima volontà: i testamenti che hanno fatto grande l'Italia" è la serie podcast di 8 episodi, realizzata in collaborazione con il Consiglio Nazionale del Notariato, che racconta il nostro Paese da un punto di vista inedito e originale: quello dei testamenti di italiani illustri.



ASCOLTA IL PODCAST



## ITALY – THE WILLS THAT BROUGHT GREATNESS TO ITALY

Since 5 April 2024, "L'ultima volontà: i testamenti che hanno fatto grande l'Italia" (The Last Will: the wills that brought greatness to Italy), the 8-episode podcast series (with a weekly release), produced by the National Council of the Italian Notariat in collaboration with a well-known national daily newspaper (Corriere della Sera), has been on air. The aim is to tell the story of our country from an original and unprecedented point of view: that of the wills of famous Italians such as Giuseppe Garibaldi, Alessandro Manzoni, Luigi Pirandello, Giuseppe Verdi, Enrico De Nicola, Enzo Ferrari, Giovanni Agnelli senior and others. The podcast was the natural declination, in a modern key, of the travelling exhibition "Io qui sottoscritto. Testamenti di Grandi Italiani", that the notariat has been taking all over Italy for more than ten years.

In each episode, journalists, historians, literary critics and professors recounted the historical period, family and work stories, and the attitudes and values of the various characters. All this was interspersed with short speeches by the President of the notariat who, in simple and concise language, explained to listeners the various issues related to Italian inheritance law.

The series, available on all major podcast platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcast, Amazon Music, Google Podcast), was highly appreciated by listeners, reaching more than 330,000 downloads in just a few months.

It was promoted through editorial launches on the newspaper's online platform, press launches, releases in the daily newsletter dedicated to the category, through social media (Facebook Instagram, X) and with three dedicated events at major cultural events in the country.

Following the excellent results obtained by the initiative, the notariat decided to produce the second season of the podcast, this time devoted to the wills of international personalities known around the world (Albert Einstein, Freddie Mercury, Steve Jobs, Andy Warhol, Nelson Mandela, Janis Joplin and many others), with as a common thread a comparison between Anglo-Saxon and Latin succession law. Season 2 is expected to be online from February/March 2025.



***The aim of these podcasts is to tell the country's history from an original and unprecedented point of view: that of the wills of famous Italians.***





## LATVIA – PARTNERS CAN NOW REGISTER THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH A NOTARY

Since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, a new legal concept, partnership, has been introduced in Latvia. Pursuant to the law, partners can only register their relationship with a sworn notary, who shall prepare a notarial act.

A partnership may be registered by two adults who personally appear before a notary and confirm that they share a close personal relationship, maintain a common household and intend to take care of it, and that they are committed to taking care of each other and supporting each other.

A sworn notary registers the partnership if the two persons are not married, direct relatives, siblings, step-siblings and if no other partnership is registered. Partnerships may also be registered by same-sex couples. By officially registering the partnership, the couple is guaranteed legal, economic and social protection by the state. Information on partnerships is entered in the Register of Natural Persons.

The first couple registered their partnership on 1 July immediately after midnight. It was a same-sex couple, Jānis and Maksims. The partnership was registered by Sworn Notary Aigars Kaupe, President of the Council of Sworn Notaries of Latvia. After this historic event, he stressed: 'For the Latvian society, this is a key moment: the right to recognize that people and relationships are different. All relationships are valuable and deserve protection.'

In the first five months, sworn notaries registered 321 partnerships, 133 of which were registered by same-sex couples.

According to the law, a partnership is not equal to a marriage. The partnership expires upon the death of one of the partners; if a court finds that one of the partners passed away; if one or both partners register a marriage; if both partners request it from the notary; with a court order.





## NETHERLANDS – ACCESS TO NOTARIES FOR ALL CITIZENS

In the Netherlands, the notarial profession is committed to ensuring access to justice: every person, regardless of their walks of life, in the Netherlands and in the European Union (EU), must have access to a notary in order to benefit from independent, impartial and comprehensible legal assistance. This also includes citizens who, for cognitive or financial reasons, cannot easily find their way to the notary. It is clear that they also have an interest in family law issues being dealt with appropriately, for example. Indeed, all citizens enjoy legal certainty and legal protection. In this way, the notary also has a preventive effect: by arranging matters properly in advance with a notary, expensive and long procedures can be avoided later on. Important initiatives have also been taken at the European level to improve access to justice, such as the European Commission's proposal aimed at protecting vulnerable adults.

### Steffie.nl

This year, the KNB developed various activities to put this policy into practice. One example is the close cooperation with the Dutch website [www.Steffie.nl](http://www.Steffie.nl) which explains difficult things easily. Topics such as financial matters, online government services and travelling by public transport in the Netherlands are explained in clear language supported by explanatory animations.



***The Royal Dutch Notary Association (KNB) has developed several explanatory modules together with Steffie.nl like 'Who are your heirs', 'What is a will' and 'The living will'.***

The Royal Dutch Notary Association (KNB) has developed several explanatory modules together with Steffie.nl for instance 'Who are your heirs', 'What is a will' and 'The living will'. These modules are simply accessible for citizens who speak limited Dutch, have a low literacy level or have a mild intellectual disability. In October 2024, an additional module on marriage, registered partnership and cohabitation has been developed and published. People in a relationship often do not realise what their legal position is. Especially for people who can easily end up in a vulnerable (financial) position, it is extra important to know who owns what property and what debt in a relationship.

Last but not least, through this partnership with Steffie.nl, the KNB contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. UNSDG 16 mentions access to justice for everyone.



## POLAND – 90 YEARS OF NOTARIAL ACTS AND 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN COMMITMENT

In 2024, the Polish notariat celebrated two major anniversaries: the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Notarial Code by the President of the Republic of Poland and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poland's accession to the European Union, which enabled the Polish notariat to become a full member of the CNUE.

To mark this double celebration, the National Council of Notaries of Poland (Krajowa Rada Notarialna) organised a national conference entitled '90 years of notarial acts in Poland – 20 years of Polish notariat in the EU. Experiences and perspectives'. The objectives of this event were to:

- Take stock of the 20 years of participation of the Polish notariat within the EU;
- Commemorate the unification of Polish notarial law in 1934;
- Identify the prospects for the development of the notariat in extrajudicial justice.

2024 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification of notarial law in Poland. With the Notarial Code adopted in 1934, a uniform legal framework was established, laying down the principle of notarial act exclusivity for transfers of immovable property and providing notaries with a homogeneous professional status.

The integration of Poland into the European Union in 2004 marked a new era for the Polish notariat. As an active member of the CNUE, the Polish notariat has helped to strengthen cross-border cooperation and modernise its practices to meet the needs of European citizens.

At the conference, particular attention was paid to the impact of **new technologies** on the notarial profession. The discussions explored their potential to transform legal exchanges and enhance notarial efficiency.

Another central topic was the expansion of notarial powers, including the idea of introducing divorce before a notary, which is already in force in several European countries.

This enlargement is part of a reform aimed at **unburdening courts** by conferring more powers on notaries. In addition, the positive experience of the management of declarations of succession by notaries, adopted on a large scale, was highlighted as a model of success.

The conference brought together academics, notaries and representatives of public institutions, such as the Presidential Chancellery and the Ministry of Justice. The event highlighted the importance of the Polish notariat in the context of the European Union and envisaged reforms adapted to contemporary challenges.







## OPEN DAY OF THE CZECH NOTARIAT: A RENEWED SUCCESS

On 22 October 2024, the Chamber of Notaries of the Czech Republic held its traditional Open Day, a now unmissable event as part of the European Day of Justice. Since its first edition in 2017, this pro bono initiative has never been interrupted, even during the pandemic. Every year, it offers the general public a unique opportunity to benefit from free legal advice.

The 2024 edition, organised in a hybrid format, allowed citizens to consult notaries in person at the Chamber's headquarters in Prague or remotely by telephone. This made the event more accessible, attracting a wide audience. Twenty participating notaries answered a total of 250 questions, reflecting the growing interest of citizens in this type of service.

The legal consultations covered a variety of areas, including real estate law, inheritance matters, family law and business law. This year, particular attention was paid to cross-border situations and digital notarial services in the area of company law. These themes reflect recent developments in citizens' needs and the innovations of the Czech notariat to respond to contemporary challenges.

Another topic of major interest was the new system of control of financial deposits introduced by the Chamber of Notaries. This service ensures increased transparency and security of transactions involving large sums of money, such as those related to the purchase of real estate. Citizens were thus able to obtain information on this innovation, which provides real-time notifications for each movement on a deposit account.

The efforts of the Czech Chamber of Notaries to democratise access to notarial expertise and respond to the diverse needs of the population were widely welcomed. The event also highlighted the importance of the notarial profession in key areas, both at national and European level.

The Open Day has become an annual event that illustrates the commitment of Czech notaries to support citizens in their legal proceedings and to build trust in extrajudicial justice.



***Since its first edition in 2017, this pro bono initiative has never been interrupted, even during the pandemic. Every year, it offers the general public a unique opportunity to benefit from free legal advice.***

*Cosita  
Delvaux  
2025 President  
of the CNUE*



*I want our profession to continue embodying reliability, modernity and legal certainty for citizens and European institutions alike.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE 2025 PRESIDENT

For 2025, my priorities as President of the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) aim to respond to the current challenges of our profession, while exploring opportunities for innovation and cooperation.

Continuity will be at the very heart of my Presidency. We will continue to develop key topics such as company law and the digitalisation of justice, in order to adapt our profession to societal and technological developments, while strengthening our role at the service of citizens and businesses.

I will also focus in particular on the cross-border protection of adults, a growing issue at European level. In 2025, the CNUE intends to look into the implementation of mandates issued by notaries in a cross-border context, both lasting powers of attorney and general or special mandates, in order, in the interest of legal certainty, to ensure that these mandates have not been revoked. With this in mind, the CNUE will examine the advisability of notarial chambers setting up registers where they do not yet exist, and the feasibility of interconnecting existing registers at European level.

2025 will also mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Regulation on international successions. This will be an opportunity to analyse the lessons learned from its implementation and organise a European dialogue to enhance the efficiency of existing rules and identify opportunities for other areas.

In the face of the growing threats of cybercrime and digital fraud, we will strengthen the resilience of our profession. By facilitating the exchange of best practices between notariats, we will help to better protect our activities against these risks.

These priorities will be implemented with the aim of strengthening unity and cooperation within the CNUE, while supporting European notariats in their day-to-day actions. I want our profession to continue embodying reliability, modernity and legal certainty for citizens and European institutions alike.

I would like to thank the members of the CNUE for their trust and commitment. Together, we will continue to make the notariat a key player in preventive justice and a key partner of the European Union.