



Minutes of the 27th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

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Minutes of the panel on the collaboration between clearinghouses, NGOs and law firms

Held in Rome on Wednesday, 28th November 2018,

during the inaugural Italy Pro Bono Day

In the offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

(see attached agenda)

Dear All,

Please find here-below a summary of the RT (see attached agenda), as well as of the Collaboration Panel in heading:

1. **Attendees:** 52 (see attached LoPs).
2. **Introductions:**

G. Carotenuto, Co-Founder and Chairman of Pro Bono Italia ("PBI"), welcomed the attendees to the inaugural Italy Pro Bono Day and opened the RT by presenting the activities carry out so far by PBI (see attached presentation).

J. R. Celda Montalt, Program Manager of TrustLaw, Thomson Reuters Foundation, made a brief presentation of his organisation.

I. Chan, PILnet's fellow, presented his organisation. PILnet envisions a world where the rule of law delivers justice and protects human rights. PILnet collaborates with local partners around the globe to develop the legal landscape essential to rights-respecting societies. It provides lawyers with the tools they need to challenge injustice, it strengthens the ability of citizens to shape law and policy, and it connects a global community of activist lawyers who are using law to advance change. He also pointed out that PILnet is trying to explore more creative uses of pro bono, such as corporate law.

A. Grunske, Head of International Pro Bono & Community Responsibility at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosting firm.

3. **Presentations from International Partner organisations:**

Fundación Pro Bono España. L. Larracochea San Sebastian, Co-Founder and Director of Fundación Pro Bono España, provided the attendees with an overview of pro bono actors and activities all over the world, focusing on the differences between pro bono in Europe and in the US (see attached presentation). In Spain there is a huge demand of pro bono services from NGOs (Foundations and Associations), but there is still not too much supply. The most part of pro bono work goes to the

benefit of the Third Sector, whilst there are much more difficulties to help individuals. The main problem is the lack of knowledge of what is “pro bono”: a lot of people and NGOs are not yet aware about pro bono opportunities. Another issue concerns the relationship with the Bar associations, as they have difficulties in understanding the difference between “pro bono” and “legal aid”. Fundación Pro Bono España was founded in June 2018 and is focusing on three main areas:

- intermediation between lawyers and NGOs;
- development of a pro bono culture;
- legal support for the institutionalisation of “pro bono” in Spain.

Furthermore, Fundación Pro Bono España is also active in fostering a collaboration with international partners, such as PBI.

Pro Bono Portugal (PBP). M. Vasconcelos Leite, President of Pro Bono Portugal, presented the organisation (see attached presentation). PBP was founded in 2014 with the aim to develop a pro bono culture in Portugal. PBP works as a clearinghouse and supports the development of the legal clinics across the country. In addition, PBP makes use of strategic litigation to fight for human rights.

So far, PBP took charge of 374 cases. Besides their activity, PBP (composed both of lawyers and law students) works also in the universities to spread a pro bono culture in the country.

4. NGOs’ presentations:

WWF Italia. S. Fischetti, director of legal affairs, introduced the NGO (see attached presentation). WWF Italia regularly refers its requests of assistance to a network of lawyers specialised in environmental law. WWF was founded in Switzerland in 1961 and Fulco Pratesi founded WWF Italia in 1966. They are present worldwide and their main goal is to stop the degradation of our planet, by fostering a balance between man and nature. It is an independent organisation and WWF Italia is the only NGO in Europe, within WWF, with an exclusive network of law firms, because in Italy they have huge problems with environmental violations. They are supported by private donors. They need help in many areas besides environmental law, such as, laws of contract, civil law, labour law, tax law, privacy law and family law.

INTERSOS. D. Tarzia, fundraising coordinator, introduced the organisation (see attached presentation), by pointing out that it is one of the biggest Italian NGOs. Founded in 1992, it works in the most important emergencies across the world. Their aim is to be present anywhere somebody needs help. They are working in 16 countries. In Italy they work a lot with migrants’ children in Rome. They strongly believe in the value of integration. They work in many geographical areas where it is most difficult to find services, including towns’ suburbs. They need help, among others, on GDPR and labour law.

CEHRI, F. Lajolo di Cossano, fellow, briefly introduced CEHRI (Centre for the Enforcement of Human Rights International), a non-profit organisation, building on three thematic pillars: combat severe human right violations, carry out anti-poverty litigation and deal with environmental human rights. CEHRI is composed of lawyers, academics, paralegals and recent graduates who are passionate about the enforcement of human rights.

5. ASLA/PBI survey on the pro bono activities carried out by law firms associated with ASLA: exams of the results and discussion

G. Albè introduced ASLA, the “*associazione studi legali associati*” which includes more than 100 law firms in Italy that work in an associate form. The survey shows that there is a growing interest in pro bono activities (see attached presentation). In fact, a significant number of law firms have a dedicated pro bono department and some lawyers devote many hours to pro bono work (about 40 hours/year, while the European average of 15.2 hours/year).

6. Legal clinics and PBI: proposed project and related discussion

G. Carotenuto mentioned that PBI has on-going relationships with the legal clinics of the Universities of Turin, Brescia, Verona, Roma 3 and Perugia. In 2019 (from the first RT of the year onward), PBI is expected to discuss and launch several projects with the above legal clinics, which concern the integration of migrants in Italy.

7. Next event

Next Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will be held in Milan, hosted by Ashurst (Piazza S. Fedele, 2, 20121 Milano), on Wednesday, 20th February 2019 (from 1 to 3 pm). Save the date!

8. Collaboration Panel (held from 2:30 to 4:00 PM)

J. R. Celda Montalt, Program Manager of Thomson Reuters, briefly introduced Trust Law, which is the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal program (see attached presentation). They connect high-impact NGOs and social enterprises working to create social and environmental change with the best law firms and corporate legal teams to provide them with free legal assistance. They produce groundbreaking legal research and offer innovative training courses worldwide.

L. Liboni, made an introduction about the clearinghouse CILD that she coordinates (see attached presentation). The "*Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights*" (CILD) was founded in 2014 and is a network of 37 civil society organizations. They mainly operate in 6 areas: asylum & international protection, immigration, equality & anti-discrimination, justice, civil liberties in the digital age and security. Since 2015, CILD has been functioning also as a clearinghouse for the Pro Bono Italia's network of lawyers. So far, CILD has successfully processed 65+ requests of legal assistance.

R. Museo, Executive Director of CSVNet, made a presentation about his clearinghouse (see attached presentation). "*Associazione dei centri di servizio per il volontariato*" (CSV) was founded in January 2013 and associates 64 of the 65 active centres in Italy and represents them at national and European level. In 2015 CSVnet entered into PILnet network and from 2016 has been functioning also as a clearinghouse. Requests fulfilled so far have concerned NGOs' governance and relationships between CSVNet's members, copyright, privacy and data protection law issues, as well as corporate compliance and reform of Third Sector related matters.