



WESTFÄLISCHE WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT
Institut für Informations-, Telekommunikations- und Medienrecht (ITM)
- Zivilrechtliche Abteilung -

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Report on the stay at the Diego Portales University, Santiago de Chile for the Alfa-Project
21. May 2005 – 29. May 2005

I stayed at the University Diego Portales in Santiago de Chile between the 21. May 2005 to the 29. May 2005 for the Alfa-Project. In order to discuss with the lectures at the Faculty of Law different ways of teaching Information Law, I gave three different lessons for two different classes. The lessons were in English, which wasn't a big problem for the student. One lecture was about "Copyright Law in the Information society" with a specific emphasis on the European Copyright-Directive. The participation of the lecturer who normally teaches Intellectual Property law, gave the opportunity to talk about the method to teach this area after the lesson. Especially the integration of different theories on Copyright law and the relation with current problems (i.e., digital reproduction, freedom of information) was an important point. It showed that some problems will become relevant for the Chile in the near future and the students and lectures should be aware of them. The second lesson was about "Domains and their legal protection". This lesson should show the variety of conflicts which could occur when the owners of trade marks and of domains are different persons who claim rights. This problem led to many decisions in Europe but is particularly new for Latin America. In this case it was important to arise awareness of the different conflicting rights and how a solution could be found. This was also an important subject to discuss with other lectures because the conflict of different rights in the online- and off-line world becomes more and more important. The third lecturer was about "Contract Law and Internet". It was about how to conclude a contract in the internet, how to annul a contract online and how to protect consumers in the internet. For the last point, the European Directives were also integrated.

These lectures were the teaching part of the stay. It was the fundament for further discussion with lectures working in this field of law. Especially the point, which areas of Information law are absolutely necessary for the academic education, was very important. I could give an overview of our own experiences and the way how this will change in the future because of the Bologna process. The whole discussion in relation with the different lectures I gave, led to the agreement of a closer exchange of our institute and the faculty. This means, that two students will go to Chile to get credits for their final degree in the field of Information law and that also students from Chile can come to Muenster. This program will start next year. Additionally, our institute will invite lectures from Chile to do research at our institute and also to teach in Spanish for students who have practise in this language.

As a result, the stay was a success in relation to the aims of the Alfa-Project and will lead to further activities. I am very grateful to Prof. Dr. Fernando Galindo that he organises the project and gives sufficient input to the participating researchers.

Dr. Michael Bohne