

Institutionalizing innovation in education

To ensure that education innovations developed under SLEEI become integrated in the regular curricula of the universities, the project works closely with the deans of the four law schools. Together with the deans, courses will be selected for integration of the innovations and course designs and plans will be adapted accordingly. Possible constraints in institutional integration will be monitored and addressed jointly.

Outcomes and Impact

The main expected outcomes of SLEEI are improved law curricula at the four universities in Eastern Indonesia, the availability of teaching materials and methods for use by a wider community of law lecturers in Indonesia, and law graduates who are well-equipped with the legal skills the labour market requires. As a result, the universities will deliver law graduates equipped for a professional career attuned to their local context, and sensitive to ethical and gender issues. With this SLEEI hopes to contribute to strengthening the rule of law in Indonesia despite the many challenges caused by the complex reality of Eastern Indonesia today.

SLEEI encourages international and cross-university collaboration. Photo: M. Ndao.



Further information

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Partners

Van Vollenhoven Institute, Leiden University,
Royal Tropical Institute KIT, Amsterdam,
Jentera Law School, Jakarta,
Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta

SDGs

- 4. Quality education
- 5. Gender equality
- 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

Cover: Leaves of Eastern Indonesia's iconic lontar palm. Photo: J. Vel.

Strengthening Legal Education in Eastern Indonesia

How can legal education in Indonesia become more relevant to supporting the rule of law and providing legal services that common citizens need?



SLEEI
Strengthening Legal Education
in Eastern Indonesia



Universiteit
Leiden

Strengthening Legal Education in Eastern Indonesia (SLEEI) project

Legal education is key to promoting the rule of law. Graduates from law faculties should have developed the capacity to solve legal problems in a way that promotes legal certainty and justice. In Eastern Indonesia, universities are struggling to provide legal education that meets this challenge. The Strengthening Legal Education in Eastern Indonesia (SLEEI) project is now supporting universities to implement changes in what they teach to law students and how it is taught.

From June 2019 to the end of 2021 the SLEEI project collaborates with the University of Mataram, Wira Wacana Christian University in Waingapu, Artha Wacana Christian University in Kupang and the Pattimura University in Ambon to create and implement a new framework for course development and teaching methods. Expertise and coaching are provided by the Van Vollenhoven Institute of Leiden University (VVI) and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in collaboration with Jentera Law School (Jakarta) and the Law Faculty of Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta. The language of the project is Indonesian. The project is funded by the Orange Knowledge Programme of Nuffic.

Ambon, one of the cities in Eastern Indonesia where the SLEEI program is active. Photo: J. Vel.



Demand driven

The project focusses on Eastern Indonesia, where few law faculties have had the opportunity for international cooperation. A short survey among students and lecturers of the aforementioned Eastern Indonesian universities indicated that various aspects of the current legal education in those four universities could be improved. Areas of improvement include course content updates, higher responsiveness to local context, and greater attention to improving legal analysis and writing skills. Results of the survey also indicated existing interest in more interactive teaching methods. Meanwhile the Indonesian Ministry of Education also encourages innovation in legal education through new guidelines in line with the objectives of SLEEI.

SLEEI aims to improve the skills of law graduates from the participating universities, preparing students for the labour market, and improving their awareness of local context, ethics and gender issues that they are likely to experience in their professional careers.

Creating a legal education network

Using a 'training of trainers' approach, Indonesian and Dutch experts provide staff training focused on improving legal education and facilitating joint-learning processes, employing a bottom-up and tailor-made approach. The results are not only applied within the selected universities, but also will be shared to reach and benefit as wide an audience as possible.

The four core trainers in the SLEEI project (l-r): Herlambang Wiratraman, Widodo Putro, Bivitri Susanti and Rikardo Simarmata. Photo: SLEEI.



A group of mid-career legal education experts from Indonesian top universities play a key role in the capacity-building process. All have a long history of collaboration with the VVI in Leiden. They will conduct the local training workshops for law lecturers at each of the four participating universities. These training activities will also enable communication between between the experts of the SLEEI project and the universities, and give the law faculties access to larger national and international networks of legal experts and rule of law activists that the experts are affiliated with.

International cooperation for tailor-made innovation

International cooperation in SLEEI is centered around five key events. Through an inception workshop in August 2019 all partners discussed the project strategy and decided on the planning. Next, in Ambon in February 2020, a team from KIT and the VVI conducted tailored training of the four trainers and their local university's co-trainers to prepare them for their task. VVI and KIT continue coaching the trainers and helping them collect and develop teaching materials that the Eastern Indonesian law lecturers can use to upgrade and innovate their courses. After the trainers have conducted the first round of training at the local universities, partners and trainers will meet again in Sumba in August 2020 to review the experiences and materials developed so far and plan for the next rounds. Towards the end of the project SLEEI partners will convene in Kupang for a writeshop to assess all what was done, draw out lessons learnt and consolidate the new teaching materials. The results of the project will be shared and discussed at a final conference in Mataram in December 2021.

International SLEEI seminars prior to the training sessions create institutional support for SLEEI's agenda. Photo: L. van Veldhuizen.

