

AIJA Presidential Country Report – Reflections on Growth, Purpose, and the Year Ahead

As President of AIJA, it is my privilege to reflect on a year of remarkable growth, renewed purpose, and the continued strengthening of our global community of young lawyers. AIJA's mission has always been clear: to empower the next generation of international legal professionals, to amplify their voices on the world stage, and to create a home where ambition, collaboration, and courage are nurtured. This past year has not only reaffirmed the importance of that mission—it has demonstrated, unequivocally, the power of what we can achieve together.

The 2025 AIJA membership offers a vivid portrait of AIJA's reach and relevance. Among the 1,988 members represented, an overwhelming 80.84% hail from Europe, underscoring the association's deep roots and continued influence across the continent. At the same time, nearly 20% of our community now comes from beyond Europe—from Latin America, North America, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. This global diversification is not incidental; it is a result of concerted effort. It reflects the appeal of AIJA's unique blend of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and genuine human connection.

This year, AIJA has not only grown numerically, but grown in spirit. We have seen increased participation from emerging legal markets, renewed engagement from long-standing members, and record attendance at key events. Our members, united by curiosity and determination, have contributed to debates that transcend borders—from antitrust to sustainability, from technology regulation to business crime, from human rights to cross-border investment. These conversations reaffirm what makes AIJA different. We are not merely responding to changes in the legal world—we are shaping them.

AIJA's Membership by Country

I am tremendously proud to witness how the strength of our organisation is reflected so clearly in the distribution of our membership across key jurisdictions. Switzerland stands at the forefront with an extraordinary 250 members, a testament to the country's long-standing engagement with our mission and its deep commitment to international legal collaboration. Germany and the United Kingdom follow closely with 181 and 160 members respectively—two pillars of our community whose lawyers continue to elevate our scientific work, enrich our discussions, and lead boldly within our commissions. France, with 140 members, and the Netherlands, with 132, each represent vibrant hubs of legal innovation and cross-border cooperation, reinforcing the cultural and intellectual diversity that defines our organisation. Austria and Italy, with 85 and 80 members, provide further evidence of our strong presence in continental Europe, while Belgium and Spain—each with 69 dedicated members—remain essential contributors to our strategic growth and shared vision. Our association's reach extends beyond neat categorisation and our community thrives not because of where we come from, but because of the values we collectively uphold.

Together, these numbers illustrate a story far greater than statistics: they embody the unity, ambition, and unwavering commitment of a legal community determined to shape the future of our profession on the global stage.

Looking Back: AIJA's 2025 Events Programme

As we look back at 2025, AIJA's events calendar stands as a testament to our continued ambition internationally and wonderful reach in Europe. With more than twenty events occurring across several continents, our organisation remains steadfast in its commitment to facilitating thought-leadership, practical learning, and international friendship. These gatherings—ranging from online seminars to regional meetings, from celebratory networking moments to deeply scientific conferences—reflect the dynamism of our association and the dreams of those who make it thrive.

Our Seminars reached new heights, particularly in Girona and Cambridge, where we had hundreds of attendees engaging in academic content across several of our AIJA commissions. As our Flagship Half-Year Conferences in Milan and Hamburg were attended by over 800 in total. Our Annual Congress and General Assembly was held in Washington, D.C. and brought over 500 young lawyers together.

As we approach another transformative year, I am filled with gratitude for our members—each of whom plays a role in building the AIJA we cherish. Our association is not defined by geography, statistics, or tradition alone; it is defined by the passion of young lawyers who believe in a global profession rooted in integrity, collaboration, and vision. Together, we will continue to elevate AIJA as the leading voice for the next generation of international legal minds. The future is bright, and it is ours to shape—united, inspired, and unstoppable.