

Preface

This volume constitutes the final study within the research project *EUFams II: Facilitating Cross-Border Family Life – Towards a Common European Understanding* and entails papers presented at the online final conference held on 30 October 2020. EUFams II was a project on European private international law in family and succession matters conducted between September 2018 and December 2020 and funded by the European Commission. The project built on the predecessor study *Planning the future of cross-border families: a path through coordination (EUFam's)* initiated by the University of Milan.

The EUFams II project was coordinated by the Institute for Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws and International Business Law of Heidelberg University in cooperation with the Universities of Lund (*Ulf Maunsbach* and *Michael Bogdan*), Milan (*Ilaria Viarengo* and *Francesca Villata*), Osijek (*Mirela Župan*), Valencia (*Rosario Espinosa Calabuig*), Verona (*Maria Caterina Baruffi*), and the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law (*Burkhard Hess*).

In my capacity as coordinator, I would like to express my gratitude to all the project partners and their respective research teams for the fruitful cooperation throughout the project. I would also like to thank *Katharina Boele-Woelki*, *Alegría Borrás Rodríguez* (†), *Fausto Pocar*, and *Vesna Tomljenović* for their support as members of the project's Academic Advisory Board. My gratitude extends to all those having contributed to the success of EUFams II by participating in national and international exchange seminars, the empirical study, or other project activities. A special thanks goes to the speakers, discussants, and participants of the online final conference which replaced the originally planned conference in Heidelberg.

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Most importantly, however, I would like to emphasize that the project aimed at facilitating life for cross-border families by a better coordination of legal systems in Europe. We should be most grateful if this project provided a small contribution to the efforts to achieve this important goal.

Heidelberg, 28 May 2021

Thomas Pfeiffer