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the legal profession®

A background photograph of a classroom with several students sitting at desks. Two students in the foreground have their hands raised, suggesting an interactive session or a Q&A period.

IBA Rule of Law Educational Project

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION & THE DANISH BAR ASSOCIATION



Empowering the Young Generation to defend the Rule of Law

As the Rule of Law faces increasing global challenges, it is the next generation that will shape its future. That is why, in line with its commitment to upholding the Rule of Law, the International Bar Association (IBA) is launching a new project aimed at raising awareness and inspiring young people to champion the Rule of Law throughout their civic lives: an educational programme tailored for secondary school students.

The pilot project will be launched in 2026 in Denmark, where the IBA Annual Conference 2026 will take place, and is intended to be replicated in other countries over time. In this context, the IBA has worked closely with the Danish Bar Association throughout the development of the project, from its inception to its implementation.



While many existing educational programmes focus on legal education and human rights, this pilot programme focuses specifically on the Rule of Law and offers students first-hand exposure through direct interaction with legal professionals. Students will engage not only with Danish lawyers, but also with legal professionals from around the world.

What is the pilot project about?

The pilot project consists of implementing an educational programme in Danish schools over several months, from March to August 2026, with a specific focus on the Rule of Law.

The programme targets students aged 15 to 17 and is integrated into the Danish upper secondary school system (high schools) within the subjects of Social Science and Business Law.

In terms of content, the educational programme is structured in three phases:

1 Pre-workshop phase

During this phase, students review introductory materials on the Rule of Law that they receive in advance of a one-day workshop.

2 One-day workshop

The second phase consists of a one-day workshop combining legal learning with dilemma-based discussions, led in person by schoolteachers and lawyers. To conclude the day, students work in small groups on a creative storytelling activity, drawing on the knowledge they have acquired.

3 Final video production phase

In the final phase, selected students are given the unique opportunity to see their ideas brought to life. The best video narratives will be professionally produced during the summer period (June–August), with the involvement of the students.

Goals of the project

The academic learning objectives are for pupils to gain a deeper understanding of Rule of Law principles, the functioning of democracy, and the role of legal safeguards in society. Pupils will also develop their ability to analyse dilemmas, think critically, and communicate complex ideas effectively.

From a societal perspective, this initiative aims to equip younger generations with the essential tools to participate actively in society with a clear understanding of the Rule of Law, through an engaging and dynamic educational programme. Its ultimate goal is to empower young people to defend the Rule of Law and to embed a strong Rule of Law culture within society.



Harnessing the IBA's video series as a teaching tool

The Rule of Law Video Project builds on the IBA Rule of Law Video Series published a few years ago, which vividly illustrates the real-world consequences of the absence of the Rule of Law and helps students better grasp the concept.

As part of the pre-workshop phase, students will be provided with a learning package containing the IBA videos, which they will be invited to watch in advance. At the end of the workshop, when students are asked to write their own video narratives, they will be able to use the IBA Rule of Law Video Series as a source of inspiration.

International Dimension: The IBA Annual Conference 2026

The student will get a unique access to Comparative Approach of the Rule of Law worldwide, thanks to the IBA's network of thousands of legal professionals worldwide.

The students will indeed participate to the IBA Annual Conference 2026 in Copenhagen and will there connect with lawyers, judges, and legal experts from across the globe who will give their first-hand experience.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

IBA 2026 COPENHAGEN
4-9 OCTOBER

The IBA Annual Conference 2026: a unique opportunity for students to get first-hand exposure to the Rule of Law worldwide.

From Denmark to the World: A Replicable Pilot Project

The project is intended to be replicated in other countries over time, with the aim of helping to build a worldwide movement of young people committed to protecting the Rule of Law.

The IBA has therefore been working closely with the Danish Bar and Law Society to develop an educational programme model that can be reused and adapted in the future.