



**PRAVNI
FAKULTET
SVEUČILIŠTA
U SPLITU**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**3rd INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL
CONFERENCE IN THE LAW AND LAW RELATED FIELDS
“LEGAL CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN WORLD”
SPLITLAW 2026**

Split, 13 - 14 May 2026

Faculty of Law, University of Split

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Željka Primorac, Ranka Jeknić

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Publisher

Faculty of Law, University of Split, Croatia

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Faculty of Law, University of Split

May 13-14, 2026

1. DAY – MAY 13, 2026

REGISTRATION AT CONFERENCE DESK (09:00 – 09:30)

OPENING CEREMONY

Welcome Adresses - Conference Room Vijećnica

09:30 – 09:45

Ratko Brnabić, PhD., Associate Professor - Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Split

**Željka Primorac, PhD., Full Professor – Vice Dean for Science and Postgraduate Studies,
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Institutional Cooperation, Faculty of Law, University of Split, President of the Program
Committee**

Plenary Session I. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Ratko Brnabić, PhD., Associate Professor)

**09:50 – 10:10 István Szijártó: The Interplay Between the European Arrest Warrant (EAW)
Framework Decision and the Framework Decision 2008/909/IB on the Mutual Recognition of
Judgments Imposing Custodial Sentences**

**10:10 – 10:30 Dávid Tóth: Artificial Intelligence and Identity Theft as Economic Crime: Criminal
Law Challenges to trust in the Digital Economy**

10:30 – 10:50 László Köhalmi: The Challenges of Artificial Intelligence

Plenary Session II. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Marija Đuzel, PhD., Associate Professor)

11:00 – 11:15 Melinda Simonyi-Kovács: Prohibition of Double Assessment - The Problem of Tax Administration Proceedings Running in Parallel to Criminal Proceedings

11:15 – 11:30 István Hottó: Cross-Border Evidence and Fair Trial Guarantees in the EU Criminal Proceedings: Admissibility Dilemmas. In Hungarian Judicial Practice

11:30 – 11:45 Andrej Bozhinovski: Proving Innocence Through New Evidence: The Treatment of New Evidence in the Reopening of Criminal Proceedings

11:45 – 12:00 Tamás Károly Goricsán: Thoughts on the Effectiveness of Measures Against Money Laundering

12:00 – 12:20 Discussion

12:20 – 12:35 Coffee Break

Plenary Session III. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Matko Pajčić, PhD., Associate Professor)

12:35 – 12:50 Hrvoje Bralić: Causation in the Criminal Offence of Negligent Medical Treatment in Legal Doctrine and Croatian Case Law

12:50 – 13:05 Henrietta Németh-Kiss: The Impact of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence on the Criminal Law Assessment of Drug Trafficking in Hungary

13:05 – 13:20 Doris Skaramuca: Explainable AI as a Procedural Requirement of the Right to a Fair Trial

13:20 – 13:40 Discussion

13:40 – 14:40 LUNCH

Plenary Session IV. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Ines Medić, PhD., Full Professor)

14:40 – 14:55 Nikolina Tomaš: Functional Approach to the Recognition of Family Relationships in the Case Law of European Courts

14:55 – 15:10 Luka Roso: The Emergence of International Corporate Governance Law in Public International Law

15:10 – 15:25 Ivan Mikrut: Security of the European Union's External Borders in the Context of Irregular Migration

15:25 – 15:40 Jelena Galić: Sources of Legal Regulation of Cross-Border Labour Mobility in the European Union

15:40 – 16:20 Discussion

2. DAY – MAY 14, 2026

Plenary Session I. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Marija Boban, PhD., Full Professor)

09:00 – 09:15 Dalma Takó: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on International Treaties

09:15 -09:30 Hedvig Szabó: Legal Regulation of Artificial Intelligence - Based Disinformation and Deepfake Technologies in the European Union Protection of Democratic Electoral Processes and the Balance with Freedom of Speech

09:30 – 09:45 Lisa Marie Breyer: The Presumption of Conformity for Medical AI Under the AI Act: Structural Limits of MDR Conformity Assessment for Continuous-Learning Genetic Diagnostic Software

09:45 – 10:00 Katalin Izsák-Somogyi: Who Owns the Past in Public Spaces? Memory Politics, Cultural Heritage Protection and Legal Certainty in the European Union

10:00 – 10:20 Discussion

10:20 – 10:35 Coffee Break

Plenary Session II. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Marija Boban, PhD., Full Professor)

10:35 – 10:50 Hannah Hafenscher: Constitutionalizing Terms of Services? Article 14 (4) DSA and the Blurring of Public and Private Law in the European Union

10:50 – 11:05 István Harkai: Digital Markets Act (DMA) – The Sword That Cuts the Gordian Knot of Press Publishing Law Enforcement?

11:05 – 11:20 Julia Małgorzata Kalus: Deepfake - a Problem Itself or a Symptom of the Deeper Problem?

11:20 – 11:35 Alexandra Salnikov: Deepfakes Across Jurisdictions: Regulatory Approaches in Tennessee and Denmark to the Protection of Personal Characteristics

11:35 – 11:50 Dóra Rengel: The EU Regulatory Framework and Deepfake Child Sexual Abuse Material: Current Solutions and Future Directions

11:50 – 12:10 Discussion

12:10 – 13:10 LUNCH

Plenary Session III. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Dinka Šago, PhD., Full Professor)

13:10 – 13:25 Józsa Ede: Rethinking the Concept of Contractual Freedom in the Era of Smart Contracts

13:25 – 13:40 Sanja Čović Jurčević: Costs of Proceedings Before the Constitutional Court and the Right of Access to a Court in the Light of ECtHR Case Law

13:40 – 13:55 Tea Micevska: Illegally Obtained Evidence in International Arbitration

13:55 – 14:10 Fani Milan Ostojić: Key Characteristics of the Draft Proposal for the Amendments to the Consumer Protection Act 2025

14:10 – 14:25 Petar Rašetina: The Right of Co-owners to participate in the Management of Co-owned Property in the Republic of Croatia, with Special References to the Act on the Management and Maintenance of Buildings

14:25 – 14:40 Dorina Anna Tóth: Gender Role in Labour Law amid Historical and Contemporary Economic Transformations

14:40 – 15:00 Discussion

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break

Plenary Session IV. – Conference Room Vijećnica

(chair: Ranka Jeknić, PhD., Assistant Professor)

15:15 – 15:30 Zita Szakalne Szabo: The Legal Character of Hungarian Municipal Associations: Theoretical Foundations and Practical Challenges

15:30 – 15:45 Fines Fatimah: Silencing the Rainbow: Between Moral Panic and the Right to Defend Social Morality in Indonesia

15:45 – 16:00 Nguyen Thi Hang Diem Mi: The Actual Situation of Vietnam's GI Legal Framework and the Measures for Its Maintenance and Development

16:00 – 16:20 Discussion

16:20 CLOSING CEREMONY

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PROHIBITION OF DOUBLE ASSESSMENT – THE PROBLEM OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDINGS RUNNING IN PARALLEL TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

ABSTRACT

The ne bis in idem principle, i.e., the prohibition of double jeopardy, is one of the cornerstones of criminal law in states based on the rule of law, ensuring that the same person cannot be held accountable or punished more than once for the same act. However, in addition to criminal proceedings for budget fraud, tax administration proceedings are often conducted in parallel, which may result in tax penalties and other financial consequences. This practice raises the question of whether the parallel application of criminal and administrative punitive sanctions results in an accumulation of liability that violates the ne bis in idem principle. The problem is particularly significant in the above area, where authorities often use a range of legal instruments to protect the state's fiscal interests. At the same time, the parallelism of sanction systems raises sensitive issues regarding legal certainty and the protection of fundamental rights, especially when tax administration sanctions can be considered punitive. This study aims to examine how tax administration and criminal proceedings related to tax law violations relate to the ne bis in idem principle. The starting point for the examination is the Hungarian Constitutional Court's relevant decisions, which provide an interpretative framework for domestic law enforcement. In addition, the study presents the leading decisions of the ECHR and ECJ, which examine the conditions under which parallel sanctions and the connection between proceedings are permissible. The article aims to explore the criteria developed by international and European courts for assessing double sanctions and how these are applied in Hungarian legal practice. Finally, the study seeks to systematize the dogmatic and practical issues arising from the constitutional assessment of parallel proceedings and sanctions in cases of budget fraud.

Keywords: *Ne bis in idem-accumulation of responsibilities-multiple sanctioning systems*

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CROSS-BORDER EVIDENCE AND FAIR TRIAL GUARANTEES IN THE EU CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS: ADMISSIBILITY DILEMMAS. IN HUNGARIAN PRACTICE

ABSTRACT

Judicial cooperation in criminal matters within the European Union is built upon the principles of mutual recognition and mutual trust. In practice, however, this trust is frequently tested when criminal evidence is obtained abroad under procedural standards that differ from those applied by the state in which the forum is located. A recurring dilemma arises when evidence lawfully gathered in another Member State would have required stricter judicial authorisation under Hungarian criminal procedure, raising questions of admissibility and exclusion. This paper examines the legal and practical challenges of cross-border evidence in Hungarian criminal proceedings, with a particular focus on the tension between the locus regit actum and forum regit actum principles. It analyses how national procedural autonomy can be reconciled with practical cross-border cooperation without undermining the accused's right to a fair trial. The research adopts a comparative and doctrinal approach, mapping different exclusionary models applied across EU Member States, ranging from strict exclusion to discretionary balancing. Special emphasis is placed on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union, with a focus on their standards regarding unlawfully obtained evidence and derivative evidence. The paper further examines Hungarian judicial practice and the potential role of the Supreme Court (Kúria) in providing interpretive guidance for lower courts when evaluating foreign evidence. It argues that reliance on mutual trust alone is insufficient and that a structured admissibility test would enhance legal certainty and judicial coherence. By examining the interplay between procedural safeguards, judicial cooperation, and cross-border data exchange, the paper contributes to broader discussions on the efficiency and legitimacy of EU criminal justice mechanisms.

Keywords: *cross-border evidence, judicial cooperation, fair trial, exclusionary rules, EU criminal procedure*

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PROVING INNOCENCE THROUGH NEW EVIDENCE: THE TREATMENT OF NEW EVIDENCE IN THE REOPENING OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

ABSTRACT

This article focuses exclusively on the reopening of criminal proceedings as an avenue to prove innocence. Within that scope, it examines how new evidence, with particular emphasis on new scientific methods, is defined and assessed in U.S. and European practice. It then turns to Croatia, where it outlines the reopening procedure, the applicable standards for new evidence, and the institutional roles involved, before analysing two Croatian cases in which courts evaluated new scientific findings. Methodologically, the article combines legal analysis of the applicable rules on reopening of criminal proceedings, a comparative analysis of selected standards governing the evaluation of new scientific evidence, and case analysis. It concludes with proposals aimed at strengthening the Croatian approach so that genuine innocence claims are not blocked by an overly restrictive gatekeeping approach by the courts.

Keywords: *Innocence, reopening of the criminal procedure, scientific evidence, Croatia*

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THOUGHTS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

ABSTRACT

Hungary adopted, in Government Decision No. 1688/2017 (IX. 22.), an action plan for implementing the anti-money laundering recommendations made by the Moneyval. Based on Moneyval's fifth-round country report, Hungary was required to make appropriate progress in the areas of practical implementation and effective task performance. Furthermore, Act XLIII of 2020, amending the Criminal Procedure Act, redefined the money laundering as of 1 January 2021 in order to comply with Directive (EU) 2018/1673 of the European Parliament and of the Council. One of the typical forms of money laundering is committed by the so called financial agents. In many instances, the predicate offense is committed abroad, or the funds are transferred abroad from Hungarian transit accounts, thus necessitating cross-border criminal cooperation, evidence can generally be obtained only through judicial cooperation mechanisms. Eurojust serves as a forum for judicial cooperation, which investigating authorities can access through the public prosecutor's office. The International Law Enforcement Cooperation Center, operating within the National Police Headquarters, provides additional channels for police cooperation through Europol and Interpol. Data and information may also be obtained informally from foreign partner agencies, however, a formal request for legal assistance should not be omitted, even in such cases. Where a money laundering account is held at a foreign financial institution, an urgent request must be sent to National Tax and Customs Administration to contact the foreign partner and request the suspension of transaction. Accordingly, effective action against international money laundering is inconceivable without the exchange of cross-border information and data.

Keywords: money laundering, judicial cooperation, cross-border data exchange.

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CAUSATION IN THE CRIMINAL OFFENCE OF NEGLIGENT MEDICAL TREATMENT IN LEGAL DOCTRINE AND CROATIAN CASE LAW

ABSTRACT

The concept of causation in criminal law is a complex and difficult-to-define legal institute. Three theories prevail: the theory of equivalence, the theory of adequacy, and the theory of objective imputation. The criminal offense of negligent medical treatment constitutes a wrongful act by omission. A causal link exists only if the required action would have prevented the consequence. Complexity arises when, despite negligent treatment and the created risk, the same consequence occurs, raising the issue of applying the doctrine of permissible alternative conduct. Advances in medicine and technology have increased treatment risks, while the law seeks stronger protection of the right to health. Although outcomes of certain medical interventions are often known, negative consequences may occur even with proper conduct and adherence to professional standards. Scientific uncertainty must be accommodated within criminal law norms, which require a high degree of legal certainty. Croatian case law shows that courts, following the theory of objective imputation, demand a high—and often higher—degree of certainty than that proposed by legal theory. This approach aligns with the purpose of the offense of negligent medical treatment and contemporary medical developments, as it limits criminal liability to serious and obvious cases of malpractice that, with near-complete certainty, result in the deterioration of the patient's health, while preventing the further emergence of defensive medicine. This paper defines the criminal offense of negligent medical treatment, reviews the notion of causation, and analyzes Croatian legal theory and case law, drawing conclusions about their consistency and examining whether the ratio legis of the offense has been achieved.

Keywords: *criminal law, causation, negligent medical treatment, defensive medicine*

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THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE CRIMINAL LAW ASSESSMENT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN HUNGARY

ABSTRACT

This study examines the effects of digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) on drug trafficking. As a result of technological advancements, illegal markets have partially shifted from the physical to the virtual realm, where anonymity and automated processes dominate. The aim of the research is to analyze how technical innovations such as the darknet, cryptocurrencies, and AI-based solutions are reshaping traditional criminal behaviors. In addition to presenting technological trends, the study draws on an analysis of the drug-related provisions of the current Hungarian Criminal Code. Domestic case law is discussed, with particular regard to the Supreme Court's decision examining the connection between ordering drugs online and acquiring the right to dispose of them. The paper presents the Hungarian legislature's response to the emerging legal dilemma, namely the new criminal conduct introduced by the 2025 amendment. The paper offers a critical assessment of this solution, highlighting the limitations of the new approach's applicability in light of the specific characteristics of drug purchases on the dark web. In conclusion, a proposal is outlined that, rather than introducing new elements of the offense, advocates for a more modern interpretation of the existing conceptual framework, one adapted to the digital reality. The study contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between technological development and criminal law, aiding in the evaluation of the effectiveness of legislative responses.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, digitization, drug trafficking, Hungary, cybercrime

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EXPLAINABLE AI AS A PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENT OF THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

ABSTRACT

It is often said that justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done. For centuries, this has meant that a defendant has the right to understand exactly why they are being accused and to challenge the evidence against them. However, as we increasingly integrate Artificial Intelligence into the criminal justice system, using it for everything from predictive policing to risk assessments, we are facing a new and dangerous challenge: the "black box." When a judge relies on an algorithm that no one truly understands, the historical foundations of our legal system begin to shake. This article explores the idea that Explainable AI (XAI) is not just a technical luxury for programmers, but a mandatory procedural requirement for a fair trial under Article 6 of the ECHR and Article 47 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Under Article 6 of the ECHR, every person has a right to a reasoned judgment. If a judge cannot explain the logic behind an AI's output, are they essentially delegating their judicial power to a piece of software? In that case the right to a reasoned judgment is rendered illusory. This may create a massive imbalance in the "equality of arms," where the defense is left fighting against a mathematical authority that cannot be cross-examined or questioned. The paper also addresses the conflict between the commercial "trade secrets" of AI developers and the fundamental rights of the accused. Within the European Framework, we cannot allow the intellectual property of a private company to override the transparency required by our courts. By looking at the new EU AI Act and recent legal developments, it is to conclude that for any AI-generated evidence to be admissible, it must meet a standard of "human-understandability." If we analyze its focus on "high-risk" systems, then for any AI-generated output to be admissible in a European court, it must meet a strict standard of interpretability. If we lose the ability to explain how decisions are made, we risk turning our courtrooms into places of algorithmic suspicion rather than sites of justice. Ultimately, this article aims to show that preserving the right to a fair trial in the digital age requires us to demand transparency from the machines we choose to use.

Keywords: explainability of artificial intelligence, right to a fair trial, algorithmic decision-making in criminal justice, procedural fairness and due process

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FUNCTIONAL APPROACH TO THE RECOGNITION OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CASE LAW OF EUROPEAN COURTS

ABSTRACT

*Although member states traditionally enjoy broad autonomy in the field of family law, the development of European case law has gradually led to a reassessment of the limits of that autonomy in cross-border situations. This is particularly evident in the context of recognising the legal effects of family relationships established in other member states. The paper proceeds from the research hypothesis that a functional approach to recognition has gradually emerged in European case law, allowing a distinction between the non-recognition of a family law institution as such and the obligation to recognise its legal effects where this is necessary for the protection of fundamental rights. Early elements of this approach can be identified in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, particularly in *Mennesson and Labassee*, while the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union in *Coman* and *Pancharevo*, as well as more recent case law, have further elaborated this approach within the framework of EU law. It examines the development of this approach in the case law of the two European courts and the extent to which it can be regarded as a common methodological framework in cross-border family situations, particularly in cases concerning surrogacy and the free movement of European Union citizens. The central research question of the paper is whether this functional approach can be identified as a coherent methodological framework in the case law of European courts. The paper also briefly considers its relationship with the concept of the attenuated effect of public policy. The paper argues that the functional approach may be understood as a doctrinal tool that reconciles the protection of fundamental rights with the regulatory autonomy of member states.*

Keywords: *functional approach to the recognition, surrogacy, children's rights, family law*

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THE EMERGENCE OF INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE LAW IN PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to present the emergence and development of the international legal framework of corporate governance as part of contemporary public international law, proceeding from the assumption that corporate governance no longer represents an exclusively domestic matter of States, but rather an area of growing international normative interest. The globalization of economic activities, the rise of multinational corporations, and the cross-border effects of their operations have led to the gradual formation of international rules and standards aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability, and the stability of the global economic order. The paper analyses the role of international organizations in the development of this normative framework, with particular emphasis on the OECD, the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. Although their instruments generally lack formal binding force, they operate as soft law mechanisms that exert a significant influence on State behaviour and on the shaping of domestic legal systems. Corporate law today is no longer solely the product of the invisible hand of the market, but also of the soft (and not-so-soft) hand of international organizations and standard-setting bodies. Particular attention is devoted to the mechanisms through which these standards become incorporated into domestic law, thereby gradually blurring the distinction between non-binding international guidelines and binding legal norms. In this context, the paper examines how the development of international corporate governance standards affects the international legal obligations of States, particularly with regard to the regulation and supervision of private economic actors. Although public international law still does not recognize the direct responsibility of corporations, States are increasingly perceived as bearing the obligation to establish effective regulatory and institutional frameworks. In conclusion, the paper identifies the principal reasons for the establishment of international corporate law, including the need to safeguard financial stability, protect public interests, and prevent regulatory fragmentation. Its fundamental characteristics are reflected in the dominant role of soft law instruments, the strong influence of international organizations, and the gradual transformation of public international law towards the regulation of global economic processes.

Keywords: *International organisations, International law, Corporate governance, Soft law, State responsibility*

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SECURITY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EXTERNAL BORDERS IN THE CONTEXT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

ABSTRACT

Irregular migration currently represents one of the most significant security, political, and humanitarian challenges confronting the European Union. This phenomenon necessitates a comprehensive and coordinated response at the Union level, as it extends beyond the national frameworks of individual Member States and directly affects matters of sovereignty, internal and external security, and the protection of fundamental rights, in particular the principle of non-refoulement. Irregular migration has a considerable impact on the stability of Member States, the functioning of the Common European Asylum System, and public confidence in the European Union's capacity to effectively safeguard and control its external borders. Particular emphasis is placed on the root causes of migratory movements, including armed conflicts, political instability, civil unrest, profound economic disparities, inadequate living conditions, and serious and systematic violations of human rights. The paper further examines the primary migratory routes used by migrants, as well as the international and European legal framework governing the protection of migrants, with a specific focus on the right to asylum as a fundamental institution of both international law and European Union law. The analysis addresses the inherent tension between the international legal obligation to provide protection to asylum seekers, on the one hand, and the necessity of ensuring effective control and protection of the external borders of the European Union, on the other. In this context, particular attention is devoted to the security challenges arising from increased migratory pressure on the EU's external borders, as well as to the role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) as a central operational actor responsible for coordinating external border management, supporting Member States, and preventing and combating irregular border crossings. Finally, the paper analyses the impact of irregular migration on the national security of Member States, social cohesion, and political relations within the European Union, emphasising the clear need for a coherent, consistent, and effective European response based on solidarity, responsibility-sharing, and respect for fundamental rights.

Keywords: *irregular migration, European Union, non-refoulement, Frontex, asylum*

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SOURCES OF LEGAL REGULATION OF CROSS-BORDER LABOUR MOBILITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

ABSTRACT

Cross-border labour mobility represents one of the fundamental principles of the European Union's labour law system and is a key factor in achieving freedom of movement within the internal market. The removal of barriers to labour mobility contributes to strengthening the economic, social, cultural, and economic cohesion of the member states. The legal system that regulates issues of labour mobility facilitates the functioning of the European Union labour market and simplifies the process of posting workers, as foreseen in the primary and secondary sources of European Union law. Implementation of European legal sources, such as the fundamental Treaties of the European Union, Directives, and Regulations into the legal system of the Republic of Croatia generates many ambiguities, resulting in violations of the principle of equal treatment of workers. Through the uniform application of law, member states create harmonised judicial practice and comprehensive protection of labour and social rights concerning cross-border labour mobility. Therefore, the aim of this presentation is to highlight the key sources of legal regulation of cross-border labour mobility in the European Union and the Republic of Croatia, interpret their interaction, both de lege lata and de lege ferenda, all in accordance with the theoretical framework and the ultimate will of the legislator.

Keywords: worker mobility, posting of workers, equal working conditions, European Union labour market.

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THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

ABSTRACT

The astonishing spread of artificial intelligence and the diversity of its uses are among the most pressing issues of our time. Scientific discourse on this topic faces significant challenges at both the national and international levels, and the entire international community has a stake in resolving these challenges. International law, which regulates relations between the international community, plays a fundamental role in resolving the issues that arise and is clearly devoting increasing attention to this task. For example, in 2024, the Council of Europe established an international treaty on artificial intelligence, and the Hague Academy of International Law designated the relationship between artificial intelligence and international law as its research topic for 2025, noting that although the use of artificial intelligence can have many advantages, the international legal challenges it raises must be examined and resolved. As one of the most important regulatory instruments of international law, international treaties form the basis of the international legal order by establishing international rights and obligations, and can be found in all areas of international law. Artificial intelligence is having an increasing impact on the creation, content, and application of these sources, and this trend is only set to grow in the future. A notable example of this is the 2025 decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ships Waste Oil Collector B.V. and Others v. The Netherlands, which raised the issue of amending the European Convention on Human Rights in relation to artificial intelligence. The factors described above clearly show that artificial intelligence is undoubtedly becoming increasingly prominent in international law and has a significant impact on international treaties. Analyzing these effects and exploring the possible consequences is absolutely justified given the topicality and inevitability of the subject. The aim of the presentation is to identify and analyze the possible effects of artificial intelligence on international treaties from a theoretical and practical perspective. The presentation focuses on two main topics: the impact of artificial intelligence on contract formation and the impact of artificial intelligence on the application of international treaties. Within these topics, the presentation aims to answer the following questions: How does artificial intelligence influence the process of concluding international treaties and the content of treaties?; Which steps in the treaty-making process are relevant from the perspective of artificial intelligence?; What examples can be found of international

treaties being amended, supplemented, new treaties being adopted, or reservations being made to treaties as a result of artificial intelligence?; Could international treaties be suspended and/or terminated, thereby exempting parties from their contractual obligations, as a result of artificial intelligence?; How do international courts view the impact of artificial intelligence on international treaties?; What restrictions do they impose in this regard?; How and through what steps should the impact of artificial intelligence on international treaties be regulated and restricted?

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, international treaty, amendment of international treaties, conclusion of international treaties*

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**LEGAL REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-BASED
DISINFORMATION AND DEEPPAKE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE
EUROPEAN UNION PROTECTION OF DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL
PROCESSES AND THE BALANCE WITH FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence-generated disinformation, including deepfake technologies, poses unprecedented challenges to democratic processes and electoral integrity in the European Union. This study examines the evolving legal framework regulating AI-based disinformation detection and content moderation, with particular attention to the tension between protecting democratic functioning and fundamental rights, namely freedom of expression. The analysis situates these regulatory developments within the broader context of the European approach to digital transformation, taking into account emerging risks associated with artificial intelligence technologies. The research examines three main dimensions of the regulatory environment. First, it analyzes substantive legal instruments addressing AI-generated disinformation, including the Digital Services Act (DSA), the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act), and the European Democracy Action Plan, evaluating their coherence and effectiveness in responding to technologically sophisticated manipulation techniques. Second, it examines the institutional architecture of implementation, particularly the role of national authorities, platform responsibilities, and the emerging framework of co-regulation between public and private actors. Third, it assesses the fundamental rights implications of automated content moderation systems, focusing on the risks of over-removal, algorithmic bias, and chilling effects on legitimate political discourse.

Keywords: *disinformation; artificial intelligence; Digital Services Act; deepfake; freedom of speech*

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THE PRESUMPTION OF CONFORMITY FOR MEDICAL AI UNDER THE AI ACT: STRUCTURAL LIMITS OF MDR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FOR CONTINUOUS-LEARNING GENETIC DIAGNOSTIC SOFTWARE

ABSTRACT

Continuous-learning deep-learning (DL) systems used in genetic diagnostics sit at the intersection of the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act), the Medical Device Regulation (MDR), and data protection law. Under Article 6(1) AI Act and Annex I, Section A, such systems qualify as high-risk AI systems where they constitute medical device software within the meaning of Article 2 MDR and are subject to third-party conformity assessment under the MDR. For Annex I systems, Article 43(3) channels conformity assessment through the MDR, while compliance with harmonised standards may give rise to a presumption of conformity under Article 42 AI Act. This article assesses whether MDR conformity assessment—predominantly ex ante and premised on stable device identities—provides an equivalent basis for that presumption when applied to continuously learning genetic diagnostic software. Doctrinal analysis of MDR classification (Annex VIII, Rule 11) and the conformity assessment routes (Annexes IX–XI) reveals a structural mismatch. First, Rule 11 is calibrated to foreseeable adverse impacts and offers limited traction for systems with evolving risk profiles, creating classification instability. Second, MDR conformity assessment relies on snapshot-based technical documentation, verification/validation testing, and quality management systems that presuppose a fixed intended purpose and stable performance characteristics. Third, while Annex IX offers procedural completeness through controlled change governance, it does not enable continuous substantive reassessment of evolving behaviour; Annex X and Annex XI reinforce type-based and unit-based verification logics that are difficult to reconcile with model-state evolution. The article demonstrates that, for continuous-learning genetic diagnostics, the MDR's conformity architecture may not be functionally equivalent to the AI Act's lifecycle-oriented risk logic, thereby limiting the reliability of the presumption of conformity in this domain.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence Act, Medical Device Regulation, Presumption of Conformity, Continuous Learning Systems, Genetic Diagnostic*

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WHO OWNS THE PAST IN PUBLIC SPACES? MEMORY POLITICS, CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION AND LEGAL CERTAINTY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

ABSTRACT

*The controversies surrounding public monuments in Central and Eastern Europe expose structural tensions between democratic self-determination, historical justice, and the core requirements of the rule of law. In this region in particular, public space has become a key arena for renegotiating the legacies of totalitarian regimes, foreign domination, and political violence. These processes are not merely symbolic but are increasingly regulated through legal instruments, raising fundamental rule-of-law concerns. One central challenge lies in legal certainty. The removal or reinterpretation of monuments often relies on newly adopted laws or administrative measures that reassess historical figures decades after monuments were erected. In several Central and Eastern European states, such interventions have occurred through broadly worded statutes on “totalitarian symbols” or “national memory,” creating uncertainty as to their scope and application. For example, Poland’s 2016 De-communisation Act empowered local authorities to remove monuments deemed to glorify communism. While politically popular, its implementation raised concerns about vague legal criteria and inconsistent administrative practice, directly engaging the rule-of-law requirement of foreseeability. Closely connected are fundamental rights issues, particularly freedom of expression and artistic freedom. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has repeatedly addressed memory-related conflicts from the region, most notably in *Vajnai v. Hungary* (2008) and *Fratanoló v. Hungary* (2011). Although these cases concerned the criminal prohibition of totalitarian symbols rather than monuments, the Court’s reasoning is highly relevant: it emphasized that democratic societies must tolerate plural interpretations of history and that symbolic expression related to the past enjoys protection under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. These judgments illustrate that state-imposed historical orthodoxy—whether through criminal law or administrative heritage regulation—risks undermining democratic pluralism. Public monuments also sit at the intersection of public and private law, a recurring challenge in post-socialist legal systems. Many statues are publicly owned but protected under cultural heritage legislation, sometimes involving private authors’ moral rights or claims by heirs. In Hungary and the Baltic*

states, disputes over relocating Soviet-era monuments have raised questions about proportionality, compensation, and procedural fairness. The Estonian “Bronze Soldier” controversy (2007), while primarily political, also demonstrated how monument relocation can escalate into broader constitutional and international conflicts when legal safeguards and inclusive procedures are perceived as insufficient. A further rule-of-law concern arises from the retroactive moral evaluation of the past. Democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe necessitated confronting oppressive histories, yet the use of contemporary legal tools to judge past commemorative practices risks blurring the line between accountability and symbolic punishment. When legal consequences follow from shifting political narratives rather than stable norms, public trust in law as a neutral framework erodes. Finally, these issues have a clear European dimension. EU values, including respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, interact with national memory regimes in complex ways. While cultural policy remains largely a national competence, European human rights jurisprudence sets external limits on how far states may go in legally enforcing historical interpretations. In sum, the governance of public monuments in Central and Eastern Europe provides a revealing case study of how democracies struggle to reconcile memory politics with legal certainty, pluralism.

Keywords: *public monuments, memory politics, memory law, cultural heritage protection*

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CONSTITUTIONALIZING TERMS OF SERVICES? ARTICLE 14 (4) DSA AND THE BLURRING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAW IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

ABSTRACT

This contribution examines Article 14(4) of the Digital Services Act (DSA), which obliges online platform providers to apply and enforce their terms and conditions with “due regard” to the fundamental rights of all parties involved. The paper argues that this provision creates a novel framework in which private contractual autonomy coexists with values traditionally rooted in the public law domain. Even though the introduction of fundamental rights considerations into private platform governance can be seen as a step in the right direction, the absence of concrete criteria for resolving conflicts between the two results in legal uncertainty. By subjecting Article 14(4) DSA to a textual and systematic analysis, the contribution identifies three core ambiguities: the temporal scope of the due-regard obligation, its application to both illegal and lawful content, and the lack of a substantive balancing framework. The paper further argues that the principle of proportionality, while offering a doctrinal reference point, cannot be straightforwardly transposed into private platform governance. This tension is particularly acute in the context of AI-driven content moderation, where fully automated systems are structurally ill-suited to conduct the rights-sensitive, contextual balancing required by Article 14(4) DSA. The paper concludes that the EU legislator should have established clear substantive conditions limiting the use of fully automated moderation in cases where a genuine proportionality assessment is required and suggests that ex-ante human oversight combined with region-specific moderation frameworks developed in cooperation with public authorities, civil society, and local experts should be given prevalence. Employing doctrinal legal research complemented by normative and interdisciplinary analysis, the contribution seeks to clarify what this emerging regulatory model means for the future protection of fundamental rights in the digital public sphere.

Keywords: Digital Services Act, Content Moderation, Fundamental Rights, Proportionality, AI-Driven Content Moderation

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DIGITAL MARKETS ACT (DMA) – THE SWORD THAT CUTS THE GORDIAN KNOT OF PRESS PUBLISHING LAW ENFORCEMENT?

ABSTRACT

In order to remedy the imbalances in the online press market and to redress the balance of power between platforms and press publishers, the European legislator created the legal protection related to press publishers in 2019. Member States implemented the institution based on the dogmatic foundations of copyright in their domestic law, after which press publishers encountered difficulties in obtaining authorization. Platforms were generally reluctant to even enter into negotiations with press publishers regarding the conclusion of usage contracts and the payment of royalties. Given the difficulties in implementing the press publishers' rights, several European Member States introduced provisions in the transposing legislation to supplement press publishers' rights, which were intended to secure the negotiating positions of press publishers. In France, an attempt was made in a competition authority procedure to strengthen the positions of press publishers at the expense of Google. The experience of the years since the transposition therefore shows that the press publishers' rights could not achieve the desired effect, even if some Member States prescribed additional support mechanisms. Therefore, the question arises whether the Digital Markets Act (DMA), which contains provisions that seek to limit the dominant market position of gatekeeper platforms, could help the enforceability of the press publishers' rights, which are fundamentally based on copyright dogma. In my presentation, I therefore wish to examine whether there is an effective external toolkit outside the scope of the CDSM Directive that could effectively support press publishers in successfully enforcing their claims against platforms.

Keywords: *Digital Markets Act, CDSM Directive, Press Publishers Rights, Gatekeepers, Digital Law Enforcement*

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DEEFAKE – A PROBLEM ITSELF OR A SYMPTOM OF A DEEPER PROBLEM?

ABSTRACT

The paper tackles one of the most pressing issues regarding social media governance, namely, deep fakes and the spread of disinformation on social media platforms. First, the paper presents deepfakes in a broader perspective of synthetic content and aims to answer the question of whether deepfakes themselves are the problem or rather a symptom of a much more complex issue that lies at the root of the business model of social media platforms and the way they are governed. Additionally, the paper focuses on the threats that deepfakes pose to democracy. Secondly, the paper aims to outline the current regulatory framework dealing with deepfakes and disinformation, and it also touches upon the recently published Code of Practice on marking and labelling of AI-generated content. It critically examines the Code and its possible limitations. Lastly, the paper considers how the approach of public interest technology could be used as a possible theoretical framework to reframe the narrative on deepfake regulation.

Keywords: *deepfakes, platform governance, social media platforms, EU law, disinformation, Digital Services Act, Artificial Intelligence Act, transparency*

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DEEPPAKES ACROSS JURISDICTIONS: REGULATORY APPROACHES IN TENNESSEE AND DENMARK TO THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

ABSTRACT

Responding to calls from artists' organisations (e.g., the US Screen Actors Guild and Germany's Voice Actors Association), regulators have begun to act, notably with Tennessee's ELVIS Act and Denmark's proposal to amend its Copyright Act to curb the sharing of realistic, digitally generated imitations of personal characteristics and performances. This paper analyses these regulatory responses with a targeted focus on the protection of personal characteristics (image and voice) and measures designed to mitigate risks for artists and performers. It contrasts Tennessee's explicit consent-based protection (including voice) with Denmark's copyright-anchored draft that effectively codifies personality-control norms while raising questions of fit, effectiveness against fully synthetic deepfakes, and compliance with EU copyright harmonisation. The paper argues that coherent safeguards for artists require clear consent defaults for image and voice and careful alignment with EU law – offering lessons for Member States and, ultimately, for a more coordinated EU and global approach to governing deepfakes ethically and responsibly.

Keywords: *deepfakes, image and voice protection, EU law, regulatory responses, artificial intelligence*

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THE EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF DEEFAKE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL: CURRENT SOLUTIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

ABSTRACT

This study examines the European Union's regulatory framework governing synthetic content depicting the sexual abuse of children created through deepfake technology (AI-generated CSAM). Advances in artificial intelligence now enable the production of highly realistic imagery that may not be linked to an identifiable victim, yet still constitutes a serious infringement of children's sexual integrity. The analysis demonstrates that although the Digital Services Act and the AI Act introduce important platform-governance and transparency obligations, neither instrument provides a comprehensive response to the challenges posed by AI-generated CSAM. The current conceptual framework of Directive 2011/93/EU likewise struggles to address fully synthetic material. The Recast Directive represents a significant step forward by explicitly extending the definition of CSAM to include deepfake recordings and realistic digital representations. In parallel, the proposed CSAR would impose mandatory risk-assessment and detection obligations on service providers; however, this raises substantial EU fundamental-rights concerns, particularly regarding data protection and the right to privacy. The study concludes that an effective response to deepfake child sexual abuse material requires coordinated criminal-law, platform-regulation and AI-governance mechanisms. Such a framework can only be realised through sustained cooperation between legislators, technology developers, service providers and civil-society actors.

Keywords: *deepfake, AI-generated child sexual abuse material, AI Act, DSA, future EU regulatory framework*

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RETHINKING THE CONCEPT OF CONTRACTUAL FREEDOM IN THE ERA OF SMART CONTRACTS

ABSTRACT

This study examines how the proliferation of smart contracts in the digital environment reshapes the classical legal principle of freedom of contract. The analysis proceeds from the three foundational pillars of contractual autonomy embedded in the continental private law tradition: the freedom to conclude a contract, the freedom to choose one's contracting partner, and the freedom to determine the content of the contract. Of these three dimensions, smart contracts meaningfully preserve only the first, while substantive autonomy is significantly constrained by pre-coded contractual terms. On the basis of the "code as law" approach, contractual legal relationships are governed by technical structures that exclude classical negotiation and flexibility between the parties. Employing a legal-theoretical methodology, the study analyses the implications of this transformation and concludes that, although freedom of contract formally persists, it requires substantive reinterpretation within the framework of technological determinism.

Keywords: *freedom of contract, smart contract, blockchain technology, digital private law, technological determinism.*

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

ABSTRACT

On 22 December 2025, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia submitted the Draft Proposal for the Amendments to the Consumer Protection Act to public e-consultation. The objectives of the draft are to enhance the level of consumer protection, provide a more detailed regulatory framework for traders' obligations, and increase the maximum amounts of regulatory fines. In addition to these objectives, the legislative initiative was motivated by the need to transpose into the Croatian legal system certain European Union directives. The paper provides a detailed analysis of the fundamental characteristics and the normative framework of the Draft Proposal, the reasons and objectives of the legislative intervention with particular emphasis on the aforementioned EU directives, as well as the anticipated legal implications for consumers' rights. Special attention is also given to the proposals and the final outcomes of the public e-consultation, which was concluded on 21 January 2026.

Keywords: *Consumer Protection; EU Directives; Consumer Protection Act; Amendments*

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ILLEGALLY OBTAINED EVIDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

ABSTRACT

The question of how to deal with illegally obtained evidence remains one of the most unsettled issues from both a theoretical and practical perspective. Despite the absence of a unified standard, such evidence continues to appear in arbitral proceedings. Thus, important questions about fairness, integrity and procedural flexibility are raised. What makes this topic particularly intriguing is the nature of arbitration itself, which is a system built on the free will of the parties. Yet, this very freedom generates a tension between fundamental principles, such as due process and good faith, on one hand, and the inherent flexibility of arbitration on the other. This paper explores how relevant legal instruments and arbitral tribunals have approached this dilemma and considers whether there is room for at least a modest step toward a more consistent approach to the admissibility of such evidence in international arbitration.

Keywords: *international arbitration, illegally obtained evidence, practice, standard*

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COSTS OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO A COURT IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECtHR CASE LAW

ABSTRACT

*This paper examines whether the Croatian Constitutional Court's approach to the reimbursement of costs incurred in constitutional complaint proceedings may constitute a disproportionate financial barrier and thereby impair the right of access to a court under Article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights. While domestic law (Article 23 of the Constitutional Act on the Constitutional Court) establishes the general rule that each participant bears their own costs, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has clarified that a formalistic refusal to reimburse costs—particularly where the complainant has been successful and the costs represent a serious burden—may undermine the very essence of the right of access to a court. Using a doctrinal and case-law analysis, the paper first outlines the Convention standards on access to a court and financial restrictions, then provides a statistical overview of applications against Croatia before the ECtHR, and finally focuses on the ECtHR judgments in *Dragan Kovačević v. Croatia* and *Moskalj v. Croatia* as well as the subsequent shift in the Constitutional Court's practice (notably decision U-III-3686/2019 and later cases). The analysis shows that the decisive element is a context-sensitive proportionality assessment, taking into account the nature and importance of the case, the complainant's vulnerability, and their financial situation. The paper argues that the post-Kovačević approach strengthens predictability and aligns Croatian constitutional adjudication with Convention requirements, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of constitutional complaint proceedings as a domestic remedy.*

Keywords: *Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, constitutional complaint costs, reimbursement of costs, proportionality test, ECtHR case law*

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**THE RIGHT OF CO-OWNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MNGEMENT
OF CO-OWNED PROPERTY IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, WITG
SPECIAL REFERENCES TO THE ACTS ON THE MANAGEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS**

ABSTRACT

The management of co-owned property represents one of the key issues of property law in the Republic of Croatia, particularly in the context of multi-apartment buildings. Within a co-ownership community, a distinction is made between the legal position of an individual co-owner with regard to the entire property and the legal position of a co-owner in relation to their ideal share. This paper focuses on the legal position of an individual co-owner with regard to the entire property, with particular emphasis on the right to participate in the management of co-owned property, the rights and obligations of co-owners in decision-making processes, and the role of co-owners' representatives and building managers. The right of a co-owner to participate in the management of co-owned property constitutes one of several rights relating to the entire property, but it is of particular importance for regulating the exercise of ownership rights in situations of co-ownership. This right belongs to every individual co-owner, while a distinction is made between acts of ordinary management and acts of extraordinary management. In practice, numerous disputes have arisen (and continue to arise) among co-owners regarding the management of buildings as co-owned property. In order to address these issues, the Republic of Croatia adopted the Act on the Management and Maintenance of Buildings, with the aim of mitigating problems related to building management. Special attention is devoted to the analysis of this Act, with emphasis on its legal solutions, decision-making mechanisms, and the rights and obligations of co-owners, co-owners' representatives, and building managers. The paper seeks to assess the contribution of the legislative framework to the improvement of effective management within co-ownership communities, as well as its impact on legal certainty and the protection of co-owners' rights in the Republic of Croatia.

Keywords: *co-ownership community, management of co-owned property, rights and obligations of co-owners, building management, Act on the Management and Maintenance of Buildings*

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GENDER ROLE IN LABOUR LAW AMID HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

ABSTRACT

Technological progress, industrialisation and the transformation of production structures do not merely reshape economic relations but fundamentally reorganise social roles and the focus of legal regulation within the world of work. One of the most significant elements of this process during the industrial revolutions was the gradual and often contested entry of women into paid employment. During the first and second industrial revolutions, the expansion of industrial production profoundly transformed traditional forms of work organisation and family structures. As a result, women appeared in large numbers in wage labour, primarily in industry, commerce and the service sector. The growing presence of women in paid employment was accompanied by intense social debates, as contemporary norms frequently regarded gainful employment as incompatible with women's traditional family roles. The expansion of women's participation in the labour market was closely linked to the development of female education and vocational training, which, for a long period, largely offered limited career opportunities aligned with prevailing gender roles. The mass entry of women into paid employment exerted significant pressure on existing legal frameworks and necessitated the development of new labour law, education policy and social policy solutions. Industrial legislation, labour law regulations and social policy measures gradually responded to the specific position of women in the labour market, recognising their economic contribution while continuing to maintain gender-based distinctions. The transformation of women's employment can therefore be understood as a complex economic, social and legal process that, in the long term, contributed to the formation of the modern labour market and labour law regulation, as well as to the establishment of a balance between economic development and social stability. Historical experience indicates that contemporary economic transformations raise similar questions regarding labour market participation, social protection, work-life balance and equality. In this context, the role of law remains decisive in ensuring that economic development proceeds in a socially cohesive and inclusive manner amid current European economic and social challenges.

Keywords: *industrial revolutions, women in the workplace, women's participation, economic transformation*

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THE LEGAL CHARACTER OF HUNGARIAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICAL CHALLENGES

ABSTRACT

Municipal associations play a pivotal role in the governance and administration of local communities in Hungary. These forms of inter-municipal cooperation are designed to enhance efficiency, share resources, and provide services that individual municipalities may struggle to manage independently. Despite their practical importance, the legal nature of Hungarian municipal associations remains a complex and often debated subject, encompassing both dogmatic theoretical frameworks and real-world operational challenges. From a theoretical perspective, municipal associations in Hungary occupy a unique position within administrative law. They are not mere contractual arrangements between municipalities, nor are they fully autonomous legal entities in the traditional corporate sense. Instead, they constitute a hybrid form of public law organization, governed by a combination of statutory regulations, local government statutes, and specific agreements concluded among member municipalities. This dual character raises important questions regarding their legal capacity, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms. Understanding these dogmatic foundations is crucial for scholars and practitioners alike, as it provides the basis for interpreting the scope of authority, liability, and the legal effects of decisions made within these associations. On the practical side, the functioning of municipal associations presents several challenges. Coordination among multiple municipalities often leads to conflicts of interest, divergent priorities, and questions about decision-making legitimacy. Moreover, the implementation of shared services and projects may encounter administrative, financial, and regulatory obstacles. These practical dilemmas highlight the gap that can exist between the theoretical framework and actual operational realities, emphasizing the need for careful legal design, transparent governance structures, and effective dispute resolution mechanisms. This paper seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice by examining both the doctrinal underpinnings and the everyday functioning of Hungarian municipal associations. It analyzes key legislative provisions, relevant case law, and examples of practical applications to identify areas where legal uncertainty or inefficiency arises. Furthermore, it considers comparative perspectives, drawing insights from other

European systems where inter-municipal cooperation has been more extensively codified, in order to propose possible improvements in legal design and governance. Ultimately, the study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the legal character of municipal associations, offering a framework that is both academically rigorous and practically relevant. By highlighting the intersection between dogmatic legal theory and operational challenges, it provides valuable guidance for policymakers, legal practitioners, and local government officials seeking to optimize the governance, accountability, and effectiveness of inter-municipal cooperation in Hungary.

Keywords: *Municipal Associations, Local Government Law, Inter-Municipal Cooperation, Legal Framework, Governance Challenges*

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SILENCING THE RAINBOW: BETWEEN MORAL PANIC AND THE RIGHT TO DEFEND SOCIAL MORALITY IN INDONESIA

ABSTRACT

Since the early 2000s, there are increasing initiatives to regulate and suppress LGBTQ identities in Indonesia through both national and subnational legislation. These developments have been growing in speed with the spread of global information, which political, religious and moral elites have described as threatening cultural and societal values. This framing has cultivated lasting society fearness that views LGBTQ identities as foreign threats warranting state intervention. Aceh's Qanun Jinayat, the only regional legislation applying criminal law to same-sex sexual conduct, is the most obvious step in criminalization. This is only a beginning of the journey, there have been numerous local ordinances, such as Peraturan Daerah (local bylaws), Rancangan Peraturan Daerah (draft bylaws), Surat Edaran Bupati (regent circular letters), and Peraturan Bupati (regent regulations) in several sections of the country with specific measures to limit the expression and the presence of LGBTQ people. Though non-criminal in character, these measures are moral governance practices that institutionalise surveillance, social control, and public stigmatisation. This paper explains to what extent the influence of social fearness of LGBTQ propaganda framing legal morality, and how the implications of Indonesian regulation influence the freedom of LGBTQ individuals' identity. This qualitative legal study considers the debate theory of legal moralism between Devlin's theory and Hart's theory. The article argues that these developments institutionalise a distinctly Devlinian form of law and moral, in which law is justified as a vehicle for enforcing shared public morality and preserving social cohesion, in sharp contrast to Hart's liberal emphasis on autonomy, privacy, and the harm principle as limits to legal coercion. By embedding moral panic within legal structures, the Indonesian state normalises identity suppression despite longstanding traditions of gender diversity.

Keywords: Moral panic, legal morality, LGBTQ rights, local bylaw, identity suppression.

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THE ACTUAL SITUATION OF VIETNAM'S GI LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND THE MEASURES FOR ITS MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

ABSTRACT

Vietnamese legal framework concerning geographical indications (GIs) has been established since the 1990s and is currently being adapted in an attempt to better align with international law. Over the years, GIs in Vietnam have significantly contributed to the national economic growth and the preservation of traditional heritage. However, the GI system in Vietnam has not been fully exploited and does not adequately reflect the country's economic prosperity, particularly in agriculture and handicrafts sectors. The main objective of this research is to discuss the current issues that GIs in Vietnam are now facing, focusing on those stemming from the legal framework. We primarily employ the comparative and analytical method to identify the differences and similarities between the EU and Vietnam's legislations on GIs. To this end, we extract the valuable lessons that Vietnam can learn from the EU to harmonize its law with international standards and strengthen its GI regulations.

Keywords: *Actual situation, geographical indication, legal framework, Vietnam, EU*

