DIGITAL IN LAW

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL, EU AND COMPARATIVE LAW ISSUES

"Law in the Age of Modern Technologies"

10th February 2023
University of Milan

[CALL FOR PAPERS]

University of Milan, on behalf of the DIGinLaw consortium consisting of partners: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, University of Aberdeen and University of Zagreb - University Computing Centre (SRCE), is organising an International Conference on Law in the Age of Modern Technologies, taking place in Milan on 10th February 2023.

Digitalization strongly affects society, science, and transfer of knowledge. While taking advantage of modern technologies, the DIGinLaw Project aims at raising awareness of digital demands in higher education and research in law and fosters the creation of digital literacy and digital competence that is needed in the law labour market. The Project aims at creating an open and inclusive society of legal knowledge and at opening access to scientific area dealing with effects of digitalization on law and legal education.

The Conference is the culmination of the scientific research on the overall topic of digitalization of legal education and digitalization of law and provides for a venue for the presentation and discussion of scientific research focusing on such and related themes. For these purposes, the Organizing Committee is pleased to invite (i) abstract submissions that address specific aspects of the impact of modern technologies on the law and (ii) abstracts focusing on the digital transformation processes in the legal domain and welcomes the participation of a rich community crossing different disciplines beside law, including computer science and legal informatics.

The use of new technologies, together with the advent of the information society, entails multiple and pervasive transformations and social changes. These social transformations generate new needs, new interests and new conflicts that require regulation. In this context, law does not merely react to transformations induced by technologies, but the law itself becomes a user of information technologies and adapts them to its own needs. Legal informatics has gradually expanded to include data management, office automation, telecommunications, the global computer network, and now encompasses several new areas of interest, such as computer-assisted legal research, legal information systems, document drafting, computer evidence, e-learning of law, conceptual modeling of law, legal determinations, deontology, and epistemology. However, these topics do not fully grasp nor exhaust the many areas affected by modern technologies, which have now stepped in all domains of social life, creating new needs for legal protection.

Moreover, the last decades have witnessed an incursion of artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-enabled technology in various fields, both in the private and public sphere, for instance in finance and accounting. These fast-evolving technologies and their growing influence on various high-impact sectors generate new needs for harmonization and regulation, which shall be discussed with a view to improve their economic and societal benefits, as well as to limit the risks and negative consequences they might entail

for individuals and the society. The interactions between AI and law are broad and embrace a wide range of approaches, which are not limited to its application to law, but also to the fields of machine learning and natural language processing. The use of AI by a number of entities is of no less importance, especially considering the issues concerning civil and criminal liability.

In addition to the new opportunities that digitalization provides for legal education, ubiquitous digitalization has indeed posed new challenges to law itself. The legal and regulatory uncertainty surrounding the adoption of new technologies remains a key issue that requires further reflection. Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) is an example of modern technology that introduces new legal phenomena such as cryptoassets and smart contracts, and that has spurred wider research and assessments on its regulation, legislation and demands for guidance. In particular, key areas addressed by DLTs not only concern their regulatory framework, but have interactions with substantive law, competition law, and tax law. Against this background, are the existing substantive law provisions adequate, can they be applied analogously to the DLT, digital assets and smart contracts?

New information technologies are not strictly confined to the economic sphere, but they expand to every area of public and private activities, from which new phenomena and research interests arise: e-governance, e-government, e-democracy and e-participation. The legal regulation of the cyberspace in the international arena offers interesting opportunities for reflection as well, in particular when it comes to the emergence of new threats, threat actors and vulnerabilities. Against this background, the application of international law to cyberspace poses important questions concerning both the possibility itself of applying its rules to cyber activities, but also the efficacy of existing norms and principles in regulating the cyber domain. The questions that necessarily arise from the unique characteristics of the cyberspace concern, but are not limited to, international responsibility, State sovereignty and the jurisdictional and enforcement issues, the new opportunities and risks that digital technologies may pose to the protection of human rights and to the conduct of hostilities; as well as whether and to what extent international law tackles the impact of cyber threats on States' security.

Lastly, the process of digitalization of court proceedings in civil, criminal, and administrative matters is gaining momentum both at a national and at a cross-border level, as well as within international courts and tribunals. Consequently, it is necessary to consider the legal instruments and frameworks adopted at a European and international level, as well as current initiatives and future perspectives that aim to advance this digitalization process, involving: digital means of communication between the stakeholders (parties, courts, enforcing authorities, public prosecutors); digital means of taking of evidence; videoconference hearing and witness examinations; AI judicial decision making; and so on. These matters and their process of digitalization raise a number of issues, aiming fundamentally at striking a balance between the efficiency of these digital means and respecting fundamental procedural rights. Amongst others, it is worth considering issues such as the possibility to include digital means in cross-border proceedings involving third countries, regulating the identification of the parties to the proceedings, governing data securing their confidentiality, and other issues relating to access to justice in a digital world.

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The **topics of interest** include, but are not limited to, the following:

♦ Data management and protection

♦ Data Governance

♦ Cybersecurity

♦ Trust, Misinformation, and Fakes

♦ Threats, Attacks and Defences

♦ Cryptography

♦ Risk Management & Governance

♦ e-Government and e-Democracy

♦ Digitalization and human rights

♦ e-Health

♦ Digital Communities

♦ Digital transformation, digital justice, digital law

♦ Legal ontologies: design, re-use, applications, experiences

♦ Linked data and knowledge graphs in the legal domain

♦ Thesauri, shared vocabularies, and taxonomies in the legal domain

♦ Domain-Specific Visual Modeling Language (DSVML) and law

♦ Visual law, legal design, and correlated themes

♦ Process modelling in digital justice

♦ Legal data interpretation

♦ Modeling and law version control: normative systems, judicial decisions, contracts

♦ Legal document annotation

♦ Legal knowledge extraction

♦ Semantic search and retrieval of legal data

♦ Ethics in legal data processing

♦ Legal analytics

♦ Quality of legal data modelling

♦ Protection of vulnerable parties

♦ Artificial intelligence (AI)

♦ EU digital agenda

♦ Challenges of on-line legal education (student, adult learning, judicial training)

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The Conference is organized within the framework of the project 'Time to Become Digital in Law' (DIGinLaw), co-funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, for which we are very grateful.

We invite you to consider submitting an abstract for the Conference. The Organizing Committee will decide which papers should be included in the Conference.

If interested in participating, please submit an abstract by **15th November 2022** electronically by filling in the form at this link. The Organizing Committee kindly invites those who submit an abstract to indicate in the form whether they intend to participate to the Conference in person or remotely.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Abstracts of 250—500 words (maximum) should indicate the main arguments and structure of the paper and the methods used. Abstracts should be uploaded in .pdf format in the form, together with required information.

A notification of acceptance of the abstract submitted will be sent by **25h November 2022.**

If accepted, authors will be expected to deliver a **full paper** of no more than 15 000 words (footnotes included) by **28th February 2023**.

Depending on the topics, selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed international journal, or in a special volume by an international publisher.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Submission Deadline for Abstracts: **15th November 2022**

Notification on Acceptance of Abstracts: **25th November 2022**

Submission Deadline for Papers: **28th February 2023**

NO ATTENDING FEES

For any further questions, please contact us: diginlawunimi@gmail.com.

On the behalf of the Conference Organizing Committee,

Francesca C. Villata, Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy)

Katarina Trimmings, The University of Aberdeen (United Kingdom)

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