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**XIII International Doctoral Scientific-Research
Conference**

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES,
PERSPECTIVES AND PARADIGMS:
CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST
CENTURY**

Book of Abstracts

Ljubljana, June 2026



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FAKULTETA**



**FAKULTETA ZA DRŽAVNE
IN EVROPSKE ŠTUDIJE**



**FAKULTETA ZA SLOVENSKE
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XIII International Doctoral Scientific-Research Conference

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

12 June 2026

European Faculty of Law, New University

08:30–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:10 Welcome Address and Opening Remarks:

Dr. Katarina Vatovec (Dean, European Faculty of Law,
New University)

SECTION I

Democracy, Governance and Institutional Transformation

09:10–10:25

- **Iztok Artič** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *The Slovenian Referendum Model Between Direct Democracy and Minority Rights Protection*
- **Anna Tarackközi** (School of Public Administration, Ludovika University of Public Services, Hungary): *Adaptive Public Management under Rule-of-Law Conditionality: Hungarian Regional Policy and the Domestic Place-Based Turn in an Era of Restricted EU Funding*
- **Zala Puncer** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Algorithmic Rule: The Quiet Erosion of Democratic Sovereignty*
- **Mgr. Igor Sloboda** (Faculty of Law, Comenius University, Slovakia): *Assessing the Implementation Effectiveness of EEA Grants in Selected Beneficiary EU Member States*
- **Leila Mária Lázár** (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary): *Regulation of Digital Communications: NATO Guidelines and Strategies*

10:25–10:45 Discussion and Debate

Coffee Break

10:45–11:00



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SECTION II

Constitutional Law, Human Rights and Regulation

11:00–12:30

- **Mojca Rep** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Admissibility of Evidence in the Slovenian Legal System*
- **Pia Barbara Hrovat** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Judicial Settlement in Family Cases: A Constitutional and Human Rights Perspective*
- **Maqsood Ali** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Victim Participation in Proceedings before the ICC and its Impact on the Accused's Right to Trial without Undue Delay*
- **Mgr. et Mgr. Kristína Ježová** (Faculty of Law, Comenius University, Slovakia): *Rethinking Availability in the Digital Age: The Right to Disconnect in the European Union*
- **mag. Robert Režonja** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Constitutional and Legal Protection of Property and the Conditions for Interference with It in Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, with an Emphasis on Interventions in Forests or Nature*
- **Dániel Zoltán Szakonyi** (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary): *Beyond the Dichotomy: Rethinking Consociationalism and Centripetalism*

12:30–13:00 Discussion and Debate

Free Time / Lunch Break

13.00–14:30

SECTION III

Sustainability, Environment and Spatial Development

14:30–15:45

- **Barbara Hribar** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Climate Neutrality as a Legal-Political and Technological Paradigm of the Twenty-First Century: Challenges in*



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Implementing the Long-Term Climate Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia

- **Matejka Javornik** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Beyond Individual Measures: The Cumulative Effects of Sustainability Regulation and the Transformation of the Freedom to Conduct a Business*
- **Dr Nataliia Vernihorova** (State Organization “Institute of Market and Economic and Ecological Researches of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”, Ukraine): *Development of Therapeutic Forests in Slovenia in the Context of an Interdisciplinary Approach*
- **Vid Eržen** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Location Tracking Based on Mobile Signals and Its Application in Spatial and Transportation Planning*
- **Ana Pantelin** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Public Open Space as a Potential Response to the Challenges of Population Ageing and Intergenerational Learning*

15:45–16:15 Discussion and Debate

Coffee Break

16:15–16:30

SECTION IV

Infrastructure, Asset Management, European Integration and Security

16:30–17:30

- **Matjaž Erjavec** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Management of State-Owned Real Estate Assets*
- **Borut Dolanc** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Management of Infrastructure Projects in the Republic of Slovenia*
- **Ivanka Oberman** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Institutional Memory in the Era of Digital Transformation: The Role of the Slovenian Police Museum and the Sever Association in the Legitimation and Professionalisation of the Slovenian Police After 2013*



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- **Tjaša Doberlet** (European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia): *Seismic Issues of the Building Stock in Slovenia: From Current Conditions to Action Through the Perspective of the Professional Community in Light of the New Challenges of the 21st Century*

17:30–17:45 Discussion and Debate

17:45–18:00 Reflections and Closing Remarks



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ABSTRACTS

The Slovenian Referendum Model Between Direct Democracy and Minority Rights Protection

Iztok Artič

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

The article examines the constitutional tension between the referendum as an instrument of direct democracy and the protection of minority human rights within the Slovenian constitutional order. It evaluates whether the constitutional regulation of legislative referendums in Slovenia provides adequate protection against majority decision-making on minority rights. The discussion proceeds from the question of whether it is permissible for the majority to decide by referendum on the legal position of minority groups. Particular attention is devoted to Article 90 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, which excludes referendums on certain categories of legislation, including laws intended to eliminate unconstitutionality in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Although this restriction confirms that human rights may limit direct democracy, its practical scope remains relatively narrow. It primarily applies to legislation adopted to remedy an already established unconstitutional situation and does not necessarily cover every law intended to improve or equalise the position of a minority group. The analysis focuses on the 2012 referendum on the Family Code and the 2015 referendum on the amendment to the Marriage and Family Relations Act, both of which concerned the rights of same-sex couples. These cases reveal a potential gap in the constitutional protection of minority rights. The article argues that referendum decision-making on human rights must be subject to stricter constitutional limitations. The assessment should determine not only whether a law formally falls within the exclusions contained in Article 90 of the Constitution, but also whether its rejection would maintain discrimination, undermine equal dignity, or disproportionately affect a politically vulnerable minority.



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**Adaptive Public Management under Rule-of-Law Conditionality:
Hungarian Regional Policy and the Domestic Place-Based Turn in an
Era of Restricted EU Funding**

Anna Taraczközi

*School of Public Administration, Ludovika University of Public Services,
Hungary*

For almost two decades Hungary was one of the largest net beneficiaries of EU cohesion transfers, with European funds contributing on average 1.4 percentage points to annual GDP growth between 2004 and 2023. The post-2020 architecture of EU rule-of-law conditionality, embodied in the 2020 Conditionality Regulation, the horizontal enabling conditions of the 2021-2027 Common Provisions Regulation, and the milestone-based logic of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, fundamentally redefined this relationship: by mid-2025 only nine per cent of Hungary's 10.4 billion EUR RRF envelope had been disbursed, and the cumulative volume of frozen cohesion and recovery funds reached approximately 17 billion EUR, equivalent to around eight per cent of Hungarian GDP. This article asks how Hungarian public administration has adapted its regional development and digital strategies to maintain competitiveness without traditional EU financial mechanisms, and what this adaptation implies for the constitutional and governance design of EU funding after 2027. Drawing on a mixed-method comparative case study across the Visegrad Four for 2021-2026, combining systematic document analysis of National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Partnership Agreements, operational programmes and government decrees with descriptive macroeconomic and fiscal indicators, the analysis develops a structured comparison of GDP growth, public investment, RRF absorption, the Digital Economy and Society Index, and budgetary trajectories. The paper documents three layers of domestic adaptation: partial financial substitution through the new Competitive Districts Programme (Versenyképes Járások Program), territorial re-design at the functional-region level that brings Hungary closer to the post-Barca place-based paradigm, and institutional learning through District Development Forums that institutionalise inter-municipal cooperation. It concludes that domestic place-based instruments can preserve a minimum of development activity and produce durable governance gains, but cannot substitute for EU-scale transfers in transformative sectors such as digital and green transitions, with significant implications for the constitutional standing of the EU's emerging dual-track financial architecture and for the design of cohesion policy beyond 2027.



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Algorithmic Rule: The Quiet Erosion of Democratic Sovereignty

Zala Puncer

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

This paper examines the constitutional implications of the concentration of technological power in the digital economy, focusing on its impact on democratic legitimacy and regulatory sovereignty. In the context of algorithmically mediated public discourse, large digital platforms increasingly perform functions traditionally associated with public authority, including the regulation of speech, access to information, and structuring of public debate. The central research question of the paper is whether the concentration of economic and infrastructural power in the technological sector constitutes a constitutionally relevant problem and how it affects the relationship between democratic legitimacy and state regulatory capacity. The analysis is based on a normative constitutional approach, drawing on concepts of input and output legitimacy, the role of the public sphere, and the principle of the rule of law. It combines doctrinal legal analysis of constitutional principles and EU regulatory instruments with a conceptual examination of algorithmic governance as a form of normative power. The paper argues that digital platforms, through algorithmic governance and control over communication infrastructures, exercise a form of de facto normative power that lacks democratic accountability. It is demonstrated that this shift challenges traditional constitutional frameworks, as power is increasingly exercised outside the structures of democratic control. Furthermore, the paper critically evaluates existing European regulatory responses, such as the Digital Services Act, the GDPR, and the AI Act, and argues that while these instruments represent an important step, they do not fully resolve the tension between formal and effective regulatory sovereignty. The paper concludes that the concentration of technological power represents a structural challenge to constitutional democracy and contributes to the debate by offering a constitutional reconceptualization of algorithmic power as a distinct form of normative authority, requiring new accountability mechanisms to ensure the effective protection of fundamental rights and democratic legitimacy in the digital age.



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Assessing the Implementation Effectiveness of EEA Grants in Selected Beneficiary EU Member States

Mgr. Igor Sloboda*

Faculty of Law, Comenius University, Slovakia

The EEA Grants represent a specific financial mechanism aimed at reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and strengthening cooperation between donor and beneficiary states. Although they are smaller in scale than the European Structural and Investment Funds and remain separate from the EU budget, their targeted character, thematic focus and governance model make them a relevant object of analysis from the perspective of public administration, policy implementation and financial management. This contribution examines the implementation effectiveness of EEA Grants in selected beneficiary EU Member States during the last completed funding period, namely 2014–2021, with a particular focus on Slovakia, Czechia, Poland and Lithuania. The central research problem lies in the distinction between financial absorption and broader implementation effectiveness. While financial absorption indicates whether allocated resources were formally used, it does not necessarily demonstrate whether programmes were implemented in a timely, transparent and result-oriented manner, or whether funded activities produced sustainable and institutionally embedded results. Methodologically, the contribution applies a comparative legal and institutional approach, drawing on the legal framework of the EEA Grants 2014–2021, programme-level implementation structures, publicly available implementation materials and national evaluation reports. The central argument is that the effectiveness of EEA Grants should not be reduced to the question of whether money was spent, but should be assessed through the capacity of beneficiary states to transform targeted funding into contracted funding, disbursed resources, implemented projects, measurable outputs and durable policy-relevant results. The preliminary findings suggest that implementation effectiveness depends on several interrelated factors, including programme design, clarity of institutional responsibilities, administrative capacity, timing of implementation, project delivery, result orientation and sustainability. The contribution argues that the added value of EEA Grants lies less in their macroeconomic scale than in their capacity to operate as a targeted, innovative and partnership-based funding mechanism capable of supporting underfunded areas and strengthening the link between financial management, institutional capacity and policy outcomes.

* The contribution was prepared as an output of the grant project ERASMUS-JMO-2025-MODULE 101239932 3BVERS „Bridging Borders, Building Values: Enhancing Expertise in EU External Relations and Security“.



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Regulating of Digital Communications: NATO Guidelines and Strategies

Leila Mária Lázár

Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary

Digital communication has become a defining element of international relations, security policy, and the operations of defense organizations. Information has become a strategic resource, while social media and digital platforms have accelerated the flow of information, creating new opportunities as well as new risks. Disinformation campaigns, hybrid threats, and information warfare pose an ever-greater challenge to international organizations; therefore, NATO treats the information domain as a distinct operational environment. The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate the regulatory and strategic tools NATO uses to shape and protect the digital communications environment. The research focuses on three key NATO documents: the NATO Social Media Policy, the Social Media Toolkit, and the Digital Media Management Guide. The analysis explores how these documents contribute to authentic, consistent, and secure communication, as well as how they support the organization's strategic communication objectives. The study addresses the evolution of NATO's communication system, with particular emphasis on the process through which communication has become a key element of collective defense. The presentation also examines the role of strategic communication (StratCom) in countering disinformation and analyses the security challenges posed by digital media. The informational dimension of the Russia–Ukraine war is presented as a case study, which clearly illustrates the competition between narratives, the significance of digital platforms, and NATO's communication responses. The analysis highlights that credibility, transparency, and adaptability are the fundamental pillars of NATO's digital communication. Among the challenges of the future, content generated by artificial intelligence, deepfake technologies, and decentralized communication platforms play a prominent role, requiring new approaches in the fields of strategic communication and information security.



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Admissibility of Evidence in the Slovenian Legal System

Mojca Rep

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia)

The research deals with the question of how the admissibility of evidence is formed in the Slovenian legal system within the framework of different evidentiary standards. The key problem is the relationship between the effectiveness of law enforcement and the protection of fundamental rights, especially the right to privacy and a fair trial. Special emphasis is placed on digital evidence (e.g. electronic communication), which raises new questions regarding the legality of acquisition, authenticity and admissibility in criminal proceedings. The contribution is based on normative and constitutional analysis. In the foreground is the interpretation of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act and the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, supplemented by an assessment of judicial practice, especially decision Up-127/16. The influence of European Union law, especially Regulation (EU) 2023/1543, which regulates the cross-border acquisition of electronic evidence, is also taken into account. A comparative analytical approach is also used in distinguishing between national, constitutional and European standards. The analysis shows that the admissibility of evidence in Slovenia is based on a multi-level system. The Criminal Procedure Act lays down procedural rules, but these are limited by constitutional guarantees. Even legally obtained evidence may be inadmissible if it constitutes a disproportionate interference with human rights. Digital evidence increases the effectiveness of law enforcement, but at the same time the risk of privacy violations. Constitutional review focuses on the fairness of the process, not the assessment of guilt. The contribution offers a comprehensive understanding of evidentiary standards as an intertwining of national, constitutional and European law. Its added value lies in the systematic demarcation between the legality of obtaining evidence and the evidentiary standard of guilt, and in the emphasis on the challenges brought by digital evidence in modern criminal proceedings.



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Judicial Settlement in Family Cases: A Constitutional and Human Rights Perspective

Pia Barbara Hrovat

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

This paper examines judicial settlement in family cases not as a neutral procedural tool but as a constitutional and human rights issue, particularly in cases involving serious inequality of power, such as domestic violence, economic dependence, or structural asymmetry. The appearance of agreement can conceal coercion, institutional pressure, and the absence of meaningful judicial review. Methodologically, the paper adopts a doctrinal-critical approach that operates on three levels: normative legal analysis of constitutional guarantees of child protection and human dignity; critical engagement with international human rights frameworks, in particular the Istanbul Convention obligations requiring that violence be identified and adequately addressed in custody and contact proceedings; and a structural examination of institutional practice, procedural design, and evidentiary standards, with the aim of exposing vulnerabilities that formal legal texts leave unaddressed. The central question is not whether a case ended in settlement, but under what conditions, and whether the legal system can distinguish genuine agreement from legally validated coercion. The paper identifies three interconnected structural vulnerabilities: the indeterminacy of the best interests of the child standard, which without clear methodology, expert support, and appellate oversight risks becoming a flexible formula justifying contradictory outcomes, including those subordinating child safety to procedural economy; the institutional weakness of the guardian ad litem and the influence of pseudoscientific constructs such as parental alienation syndrome, which reframe asymmetric violence as neutral conflict, enabling settlement-oriented outcomes to appear justified even where violence remains unaddressed; and a settlement culture that operates as an indirect mechanism of coercion, whereby institutional actors — judges, mediators, and experts alike — systematically frame cooperation as a sign of parental maturity and conflict as inherently harmful to children, generating strong material and psychological pressure on vulnerable parties to agree regardless of their actual safety, and rendering formal voluntariness an insufficient and potentially misleading marker of genuine autonomy. The core systemic gap is the practical absence of appellate review over approved settlements: unlike decisions on the merits, settlements incorporating substantive errors — including failures to identify violence or properly apply the best interests standard — are largely insulated from correction, a combination of high judicial responsibility and weak oversight difficult to reconcile with constitutional guarantees of child protection and human dignity. The paper concludes with *de lege ferenda* proposals arguing that settlement in high-risk cases should be reconceived as a strictly conditioned exception, requiring mandatory safety screening, evidentiary restrictions on



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pseudoscientific constructs, strengthened independent child representation, and limited appellate review of questions of child safety and the best-interests standard.

Victim Participation in Proceedings before the ICC and its Impact on the Accused's Right to Trial without Undue Delay

Maqsood Ali

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

Victim participation has attracted interest over time, but its effects and potential benefits or disadvantages have not been previously studied. The present research, therefore, contributes new and important knowledge concerning the victim participation regime. Claims for the victims' right to participate in the ICC proceedings were recklessly made. The ICC continued expanding the scope of victim participation without considering the effects. The growing intervention of victims in the proceedings, due to judicial discretion, has increased costs and made the proceedings lengthier, which ultimately has connections to the accused's rights. There, however, is no clear evidence showing the concrete benefits resulting from victim participation. This study shall examine whether victim participation accrued tangible benefits or if it has violated the accused's rights. The present research is divided into two parts. The first part addresses victim participation as an independent phenomenon, and the second part relates to the accused's rights (e.g., undue delay). The main focus is on the first part, considering time and resources, and their impact on the length of proceedings. The study aims to examine if the victim participants get tangible benefits worthy enough to lengthen the proceedings and consume the resources, or if they violate the accused's rights. If they get concrete benefits (part one), they are unlikely to violate the accused's rights. If the study finds no concrete benefits for victims, it (part two) makes a connection with the accused's rights. The study is conducted by collecting the data. The Ongwen case is taken as an example. Dominic Ongwen, a rebel fighter from Uganda, was charged with 70 counts at the ICC in 2015. The Ongwen case is described as the largest case before the Court, wherein the TC IX authorised 4,095 victims to participate in the trial proceedings. Two teams represented the victims in two groups. Victims' representation was said to be extremely resource-intensive. The court documents related to the written and oral proceedings, including the translations, were counted. The preliminary findings have shown victims' ineffective and insignificant contribution due to inadequate resources, related backlogs, and other issues, which made the proceedings lengthier; all of this, as a result, had connections to the accused's rights, including his/her right to trial without undue delay.



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Rethinking Availability in the Digital Age: The Right to Disconnect in the European Union

Mgr. et Mgr. Kristína Ježová*

Faculty of Law, Comenius University, Slovakia

The digitalisation of work has fundamentally reshaped the organisation of labour by enabling constant connectivity and by weakening the boundary between working time and rest. While this transformation has become a defining feature of contemporary labour markets, EU labour law remains largely grounded in a traditional, time-based conception of work. Existing rules on working time primarily regulate the quantitative dimension of labour, especially the duration of work and rest, but they do not fully capture the qualitative interference caused by work-related digital availability during private time. The presentation addresses this regulatory tension by examining whether the emerging right to disconnect should be understood not only as a new social right, but also as a response to a structural gap in EU labour law. The central research problem is whether current legal instruments are capable of protecting workers against the intrusion of work into rest time through digital communication, or whether a distinct regulatory response is required. The analysis is based on doctrinal examination of EU working-time and occupational safety and health law, combined with a comparative overview of selected approaches adopted by EU Member States. The presentation compares different regulatory models. These are assessed in light of legal certainty, flexibility and equality of protection, with particular attention to their implications for workers in digital, hybrid and cross-border working environments. The expected finding is that the absence of a harmonised EU framework contributes to fragmented protection and leaves comparable situations subject to different levels of legal protection. This fragmentation may also weaken legal certainty and raise broader concerns for the coherence of EU labour law. Against this background, the presentation considers whether minimum harmonisation at EU level, potentially through a directive, could provide an appropriate regulatory response. The expected contribution lies in framing the right to disconnect as part of a broader shift in labour law: from regulating only measurable working time towards addressing digital presence, availability and the effective protection of rest in technologically transformed labour markets.

* The contribution was funded by the Grant of Comenius University No. UK/1245/2026 titled "Hranice práce v digitálnom veku: právo na odpojenie / Limits of work in the digital age: the right to disconnect".



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**Constitutional and Legal Protection of Property and the Conditions for
Interference with It in Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Serbia,
Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, with an Emphasis on
Interventions in Forests or Nature**

mag. Robert Režonja

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

The right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions is defined in Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the ECHR. Modern societies recognize that certain types of property such as forests also involve a general or public interest, since their use affects the quality of life of the broader community. The purpose of this research is to answer whether the countries under examination apply the same conditions for limiting the enjoyment or exercise of property rights, and whether forest land—or nature more broadly—enjoys special constitutional protection that influences the conditions for restricting or interfering with this type of property. We seek answers through an analysis of the legal framework and case law in selected EU Member States and candidate countries. The analysis employs relevant instruments of legal argumentation theory, particularly linguistic (grammatical), systematic (legal-systemic), historical, and teleological methods. The results are summarized using the comparative method, while the formulation of positions and conclusions relies on the method of synthesis. All examined countries enshrine the right to property in their constitutions. However, their constitutional approaches to permissible interferences with property rights that do not amount to expropriation differ. Approaches to the constitutional protection of forests and nature also vary across the examined states. Constitutional case law shows that the protection of nature constitutes a constitutionally legitimate public interest that may justify even very serious restrictions on property rights. The principle of the social obligation of property (*Sozialbindung des Eigentums*) means that property may be restricted when necessary to protect the public interest or to safeguard nature, landscapes, and ecosystems. Such restrictions must not violate the principle of proportionality. When interfering with nature, it is necessary to assess whether the public interest in the intervention outweighs the protection of nature - i.e., whether the benefits exceed the environmental harm. A deeper understanding of the constitutional protection of property rights in relation to property that serves the public interest, and of the conditions under which such property may be subject to restrictions or interventions.



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Beyond the Dichotomy: Rethinking Consociationalism and Centripetalism

Dániel Zoltán Szakonyi

Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary

Consociationalism and centripetalism are often presented as competing institutional approaches to managing divided societies. This paper challenges this dichotomy by arguing that the two models should not be understood as mutually exclusive alternatives, but as different types of institutional responses to conflict, associated with varying levels of conflict intensity and different phases of conflict development, which shape their respective applicability. In practice, empirical cases rarely correspond neatly to one model, and many political systems combine elements of both approaches, making their distinction less clear-cut. Consociationalism is generally understood as a system of power-sharing based on group representation and mutual guarantees, commonly associated with cases such as Belgium, Lebanon or Bosnia and Herzegovina. By contrast, centripetal approaches seek to promote intergroup moderation through institutional incentives for cross-group cooperation, often linked in the literature to cases such as Papua New Guinea or Indonesia. The central argument is that consociational arrangements are more likely to be applicable in deeply divided or highly polarised societies, whereas centripetal approaches are more likely to be effective in contexts characterised by less entrenched forms of conflict. In situations marked by low levels of intergroup trust, institutional mechanisms based on group representation and guarantees may contribute to stabilisation. By contrast, in less polarised environments, approaches that encourage cross-group cooperation may play a more significant role. Rather than representing fixed institutional end-states, these models can be understood as part of a broader continuum. Their relationship is not necessarily antagonistic, as elements of both approaches may coexist or evolve over time depending on the nature of societal divisions. The paper adopts a theoretical and comparative perspective to explore this argument and contributes to debates on institutional design in divided societies by shifting the analytical focus from assessing the relative effectiveness of competing models to examining their contextual applicability. In doing so, it highlights the importance of aligning institutional arrangements with the specific characteristics and evolving dynamics of societal divisions.



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Climate Neutrality as a Legal-Political and Technological Paradigm of the Twenty-First Century: Challenges in Implementing the Long-Term Climate Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia

Barbara Hribar

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

Climate neutrality is today one of the central legal, political, and developmental paradigms of the twenty-first century, as confirmed by the Resolution on Slovenia's Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050. The research problem focuses on the question of how the goal of climate neutrality is normatively, institutionally, and technologically embedded in the Slovenian legal and strategic framework, and what challenges it raises for the implementation of the principles of sustainable development, the rule of law, intergenerational justice, and the protection of human rights. Methodologically, the paper is based on a normative and doctrinal analysis of the relevant strategic document, supported by an interdisciplinary approach that connects law, public policy, environmental studies, and technological development. The analysis focuses on the relationship between legal obligations, political objectives, and technological instruments, particularly in the areas of greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, sustainable mobility, the circular economy, and adaptation to climate change. The key finding of the paper is that climate neutrality is not merely a technical-environmental objective, but requires a comprehensive transformation of normative, institutional, and economic structures. New technologies play an important instrumental role in this process; however, their use also raises questions of legal regulation, the legitimacy of decision-making, the responsibility of public authorities, the fair distribution of the burdens of the green transition, and effective judicial and democratic oversight. Special emphasis is placed on the multilevel governance of climate policies, since the implementation of Slovenia's strategic objectives cannot be understood separately from European Union law and international climate commitments. The expected contribution of the article lies in the legal conceptualization of climate neutrality as a complex paradigm of contemporary governance that goes beyond sectoral environmental policy. The paper offers the conference a basis for critical discussion on how technological innovation, international and European legal development trends, as well as ethical and global challenges, are reshaping the understanding of state responsibility in the time of the climate crisis.



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**Beyond Individual Measures: The Cumulative Effects of Sustainability
Regulation and the Transformation of the Freedom to Conduct a
Business**

Matejka Javornik

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

This paper examines the position of economic actors within a contemporary legal environment shaped by the development of sustainability policies, digitalization, and the expansion of regulatory regimes. In this context, legal conflicts are shifting away from the traditional binary relationship between the individual and the state towards a multi-actor framework that also encompasses the interests of nature, future generations, and the broader community. This shift significantly transforms the legal position of economic actors. They are no longer merely holders of rights, but are increasingly also addressees and implementers of regulatory requirements. In doing so, they assume certain functional characteristics of regulatory actors, indicating a process of partial institutionalization. The freedom to conduct a business constitutes the fundamental legal framework for the exercise of their autonomy and serves as the main analytical point of reference. While this development is broader in scope, it manifests itself in a particularly intense and cumulative form within sustainability regulation. The paper advances the thesis that contemporary limitations on the freedom to conduct a business do not operate primarily through individual measures, but through their cumulative effects. The gradual accumulation of reporting obligations, due diligence requirements, and substantive regulatory constraints produces a combined effect that significantly narrows the operational autonomy of economic actors, even where individual measures are considered proportionate. In practice, this leads to a progressive and systematic reduction of their autonomy. The central research question is whether the existing constitutional framework, particularly the proportionality test and the doctrine of the essence of rights, adequately captures such cumulative interferences. The paper argues that a methodological focus on individual measures systematically underestimates the actual extent of restrictions on this right. The problem of cumulative effects is not equally relevant across all fundamental rights. It becomes particularly pronounced in relation to rights with an open normative structure, where the legislature enjoys a broader margin of discretion, such as the freedom to conduct a business. Methodologically, the paper is based on a normative-dogmatic analysis of European Union law and case law, complemented by a conceptual analysis of fundamental rights theory and proportionality. It advocates refining approaches to legal balancing by incorporating analytical tools for assessing the cumulative effects of regulation.



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Development of Therapeutic Forests in Slovenia in the Context of an Interdisciplinary Approach

Dr Nataliia Vernihorova *

State Organization "Institute of Market and Economic and Ecological Researches of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine", Ukraine

Slovenia is 60% covered by forests and has a natural potential for the development of therapeutic forests. Given the complexity of the impacts that forest ecosystems have on public well-being, projects based on an interdisciplinary approach will be the most effective. Therefore, the research problem is to find common interests and potential participants from different fields for therapeutic forest projects. The basis of the research methodology is a content analysis of the regulatory and legal sphere of Slovenia regarding the organization of specialized forests for health purposes, and regarding existing national health programs and priorities in the field of tourism. Taking into account Slovenia's natural advantages and certain paradoxical social problems, it is possible to propose a partnership in the form of a public-private-philanthropic partnership (PPPP) model for the training of forest therapy specialists and the creation of therapeutic forests. The advantage of this PPP model is the attraction of charitable investment, which optimizes the funds of the public and private partner. With the help of such cooperation, it is possible to combine in the therapeutic forest project the achievement of priorities from different sectors: the tourism sector (goals of green and responsible tourism); the healthcare sector (priorities of mental health protection). The implementation of the project is planned in three stages, and has its advantages: the phased nature of the partners' investment activities, the flexibility of financing, the presence of an intermediate stage to determine the effectiveness of the project. The development of the concept of a therapeutic forest is important for the implementation of the principles of integrative medicine regarding the improvement of mental health, as well as the preservation of natural forest resources.

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Location Tracking Based on Mobile Signals and Its Application in Spatial and Transportation Planning

Vid Eržen

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

The use of mobile device signal data holds great potential in the fields of spatial and transportation planning; among other things, it could provide a more dynamic, real-time view of mobility patterns. Location tracking data based on mobile signals is currently used only in emergency response, for example, to locate missing persons. However, this type of data could also be useful for many other purposes, yet research in this area is very limited. This study presents data processing aimed at verifying the accuracy of labor migration and comparing the actual situation based on the location tracking of mobile devices connected to the telecommunications network. Official statistical data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia include the employee's place of residence and workplace. In recent years, remote work has become more widespread, casting doubt on the reliability of such statistical data. The aim of the study was to verify the accuracy of calculated labor migration data based on mobile signals in comparison with official statistical data. The experimental study was conducted using data from the national statistical office and location calculations based on mobile signals for an average day in a major Slovenian municipality. The analysis of work-related migration was performed using the time-location clustering method with the ST-DBSCAN algorithm, within which a proprietary calculation model was developed based on input data and variables. The main results of the preliminary study demonstrate a match between the compared datasets, with an additional increase in the difference observed in more remote areas, which can be attributed to hybrid work arrangements aimed at reducing commuting time. The results point to the development of new possibilities for transportation and spatial planning that provide more accurate and realistic results, while also raising challenges regarding the protection of personal data in location tracking and opening up new possibilities in the areas of transportation, tourism, and other flows.



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Public Open Space as a Potential Response to the Challenges of Population Ageing and Intergenerational Learning

Ana Pantelin

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

Population ageing is one of the defining challenges of contemporary society and is becoming increasingly pronounced in both Europe and Slovenia. The proportion of older adults is steadily increasing due to longer life expectancy and low birth rates, creating significant social and economic challenges. A particular issue is the social isolation experienced by older adults living in residential care homes. At the same time, public open spaces have considerable potential to improve the social inclusion of older adults. However, such spaces are frequently not designed in ways that adequately address the needs of an ageing population or encourage intergenerational interaction. In particular, the surroundings of residential care homes often lack high-quality, accessible, and inclusive outdoor spaces that would enable spontaneous social interaction, physical activity, and the active integration of older adults into community life. The paper is based on a review of literature and research addressing public space, demographic change, and the social dimensions of ageing. A comparative and analytical approach is employed, integrating insights from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The paper explores the role of public open spaces in reducing the social isolation of older adults and strengthening intergenerational relationships. The research highlights the potential of spaces located near residential care homes to become active meeting points for different generations rather than merely functional areas surrounding institutional facilities. In doing so, the paper contributes to broader discussions on inclusive spatial planning and the development of age-friendly and socially cohesive communities.



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Management of State-Owned Real Estate Assets

Matjaž Erjavec

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

This research examines state asset management in Slovenia, with particular emphasis on the management of state-owned real estate, in the light of European Union law. The central research problem is the institutional fragmentation of the Slovenian system, where state real estate assets are managed by different ministries and public institutions without a sufficiently unified strategic framework. Such fragmentation may reduce operational efficiency, weaken transparency, complicate data-based decision-making and increase legal and financial risks. Although the organisation of state asset management formally remains within the competence of Member States, European Union law increasingly influences this field through state aid rules, the Market Economy Investor Principle, public procurement requirements, fiscal discipline, sustainability objectives and energy efficiency obligations arising from EU energy legislation. The research is based on an interdisciplinary methodological approach, combining normative legal analysis, comparative institutional analysis and efficiency-oriented methods, including the potential use of DEA and FDH analysis, depending on the availability and reliability of data. The comparative part refers to selected European models, especially Sweden, Austria and Italy, which illustrate different forms of professional, centralised or agency-based management of public real estate assets. The key position of the research is that EU law does not impose one single institutional model for state asset management, but it creates a regulatory and policy environment that requires greater transparency, accountability, market-consistent conduct, sustainability and efficient use of public resources. In this context, Slovenia should move from a fragmented ministerial model towards a more coordinated, professional and EU-compliant framework. Such a transformation would strengthen legal compliance, improve strategic management of public real estate, support the green transition and contribute to more responsible governance of state assets.



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Management of Infrastructure Projects in the Republic of Slovenia

Borut Dolanc

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

This paper examines the management of major infrastructure projects in the Republic of Slovenia through a comparative analysis of selected European transport megaprojects. The research addresses the question whether Slovenia has developed not only a formally adequate legal and supervisory framework, but also an effective operational system of internal controls, project governance, and ex ante risk management. The analysis focuses primarily on financial, legal, and organisational risks in projects with significant public-finance implications, including state-led investments, projects implemented through state-owned companies, and projects co-financed by European Union funds. The paper is based on a comparative and document-based methodology. It draws on audit reports, official project documentation, materials of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank, and selected public-policy sources. Slovenian cases such as TEŠ 6, the second railway track Divača–Koper, the motorway network, the Third Development Axis and GSM-R are compared with European projects including Gotthard/NRLA, Brenner Base Tunnel, Koralmbahn, Semmering, Rail Baltica, Fehmarnbelt and Grand Paris Express. The findings show that the main distinction between stronger European projects and weaker Slovenian cases is not the absence of delays or cost overruns, but the maturity of project risk governance. European projects more often display institutional continuity, clearer financial architecture, stronger ex ante verification of economic feasibility, and more effective independent controls in the preparatory phase. By contrast, the most problematic Slovenian cases reveal a recurring pattern in which political or strategic decisions are made before the financial structure is fully closed and before responsibilities are clearly allocated. TEŠ 6 represents the clearest example of systemic failure, while the Divača–Koper second track shows partial institutional learning, although with evident weaknesses in its initial phase. The paper concludes that Slovenia does not lack formal rules, audits, or access to EU funding. Its main weakness lies in the insufficient operationalisation of these instruments in politically exposed and financially demanding infrastructure projects. The article therefore proposes mandatory two-stage independent project verification, stronger ownership oversight over state-owned companies, unified state standards for large projects, and more transparent reporting on contractual amendments, claims, and deviations.



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Institutional Memory in the Era of Digital Transformation: The Role of the Slovenian Police Museum and the Sever Association in the Legitimation and Professionalisation of the Slovenian Police After 2013

Ivanka Oberman

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

This article examines the role of the Slovenian Police Museum and the Sever Association as key custodians of institutional memory in the professionalization of the Slovenian police after 2013. It is based on the premise that institutional memory represents an important soft mechanism of legitimation that complements the influence of external institutional factors, particularly European police cooperation and international security standards. The analysis focuses on the museological, archival, and narrative practices employed by both actors in preserving and reinterpreting police history, while simultaneously reinforcing professional identity, historical continuity, and the social legitimacy of the police institution. Particular attention is devoted to the ways in which these practices construct a symbolic framework through which the police establish institutional credibility within the contemporary security environment. The article also addresses the impact of the digital transformation of museological and archival activities, arguing that digital museology enables new forms of accessibility, representation, and utilization of institutional memory. The analysis demonstrates that digitalization is not merely a technical process, but also fundamentally reshapes the interpretation of police heritage while strengthening its legitimizing and professionalizing potential. Methodologically, the article is based on a qualitative analysis of institutional documents, strategic orientations, and specific practices of the Slovenian Police Museum and the Sever Association, drawing on an institutional theoretical framework and concepts of professionalization. The findings suggest that institutional memory, particularly when combined with digital approaches, makes a significant contribution to legitimation, the strengthening of professional identity, and the long-term development of the Slovenian police.



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Seismic Issues of the Building Stock in Slovenia: From Current Conditions to Action Through the Perspective of the Professional Community in Light of the New Challenges of the 21st Century

Tjaša Doberlet

European Faculty of Law, New University, Slovenia

The contribution addresses the critical issue of seismic vulnerability within Slovenia's building stock and analyses the pronounced gap between expert warnings and the actual level of preventive action. The research problem stems from the fact that despite the region's high seismic hazard, comprehensive seismic retrofitting of buildings remains neglected in practice, while legislative and financial mechanisms unilaterally incentivize energy renovations alone. To shed light on this problem, a qualitative methodological approach was employed, based on eight in-depth, semi-structured interviews with leading Slovenian experts in the fields of earthquake engineering, construction operations, and legislation. The collected data were analysed using thematic coding, which enabled the identification of key systemic and societal barriers. The key findings of the research reveal the presence of the so-called paradox of forgetting risk, where public interest in safety rapidly declines after an earthquake and returns to a state of apathy. Experts highlight the asymmetry of state subsidies ("energy blindness"), deficient construction supervision, the issue of fragmented private ownership in multi-unit residential buildings, and uncontrolled administrative legalizations of older structures that do not meet Eurocode standards as the primary systemic barriers. The expected contribution lies in the clear definition of urgent strategic solutions to overcome the implementation deficit. The introduction of a mandatory seismic building certificate is proposed as a market instrument in real estate transactions, alongside legally conditioning energy funding on a prior assessment of seismic resilience. The research thus offers a valuable professional foundation for a more integrated dialogue on energy and safety objectives, contributing to the holistic development and long-term resilience of the built environment.



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