



Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we are launching the first peer-review issue of UNIO - EU Law journal. The first issue of UNIO, due to its inaugural nature, had very specific features. Therefore, the current issue is the first to entail peer-review papers and is also the result of an endeavor to make the formatting more attractive and reader-friendly.

UNIO is an EU law journal, which intends to publish texts that have an advanced understanding of European Union law and which enhance the production of knowledge in this field. Notwithstanding, inspired by the open spirit that allowed for the birth of the EU project itself, UNIO could not disregard the other texts on matters such as philosophy of law that were submitted to us. Our editorial board agreed that, due to the nature of these texts and their usefulness to help us think about the European Union project, they should be published even if they are not strictly on EU law.

With this spirit, and having in mind that Philosophy is a big part of all branches of Law, it felt right to have texts in this issue that identify the terms of the intersubjective basis of legal norms, as “United Europe and Euclidean Pluralism” and “The Theories of Interconstitutionality and Transconstitutionality”, or that expound on the dynamic rules of the multilevel political system of the EU, as “The Fuzzy Set Method in the Studies on the Multilevel Political System of the European Union”, or that examine the manner in which the current state of the art of neuroscience and evolutionary biology, maintaining the positivist epistemological paradigm, calls into question the idea that “natural law” cannot be scientifically studied, as “Contributions from Neuroscience and Biology to the Philosophy of Law”.

Naturally, we also have relevant articles specifically related to diverse EU law subjects, whose titles speak for themselves. All matters studied by our authors are certainly on the EU’s current agenda: “The Right to Data Protection in Transborder Data Flows”; “The Early Days of the Euro Debt Crisis Revisited: Historical, Legal and Institutional Overview of the Role of the ECB in the Context of an Economic and Monetary Union in Mutation”; “The Right of Free Movement and the Access to Social Protection in the EU: the Economical Dimension”, “The Bank Account Preservation Procedure in the European Union Regulation (EU) No 655/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council 15 of May 2014”, and “The Statute of Refugees: is it Applicable to Environmentally Displaced Persons?”.

Notwithstanding UNIO’s peer-review requirements, we have decided to keep a section for non-reviewed articles, in which we will publish contributions of senior academics that we wish to honor or papers by researchers who collaborate with the Center of Studies in European Law - CEDU, which houses UNIO activities. Consequently, in this issue, we have an article on “The Critical-Systemic Approach to Law in a World Society”, by Professor Willis Santiago Guerra Filho, which resulted from a project related to “Interconstitutionality” (constitutional provisions in network-style), financed by the Portuguese and the Brazilian Governments (FCT-CAPEs), and that consisted of an exchange program involving researchers from Portugal and Brazil.

We are also very pleased to publish, in this non-reviewed section, a paper by one of CEDU’s young researchers, Daniela Marques Cardoso, entitled “«Geschichtsmüde» – Portugal and the Tiredness of History – How Can Europe Revive its Own Significance?”, which has recently been awarded the Portugal-Europe 30 years Prize by the Ministry of Foreign Office (to celebrate the 30 years of the signature of the Treaty Accession of Portugal to the European Community). The jury was chaired by António Vitorino (Member of the European Parliament, 1994-1995 and European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, 1999-2004).

This peer-review issue is launched in a crucial moment where all the moves are played in the chessboard of integration: from the Greek agony reflected in the election results to the humanitarian debacle triggered by the migration crisis. This certainly invites us to accept the challenge proposed by the former European Court of Justice Judge J. Cunha Rodrigues, according to which it is the responsibility of jurists, departing from a notion of European Union as a “community of law”, to find the answers, analyzing all legal institutes, for the situations that require the reconstruction of the social model, while looking afresh to the juridical order. To a certain extent, it is simply to not let the politicians alone on the road, mulling over feelings of operative enmity with Law.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this first peer-review issue, in particular the authors. We are utterly thrilled with all the possibilities that UNIO can offer to lawyers and other professionals interested in EU Law. We are so pleased to share this with you! Let’s hope this is the first step of a long and fruitful project.

Editorial Board