

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

GLAWnet - Globalisation & Law Network

- Skander Galand was interviewed by Al Jazeera on the ICJ's advisory proceedings on Israel's obligations under international law (April 2025). In his intervention, he explained what the ICJ hearings are about and whether the opinion of the Court could have implications for Israel and the way it occupies Palestine, despite its non-binding nature.
- Andreina De Leo was invited as an expert speaker to the public hearing of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights on "The Human Rights dimension of the EU Memoranda of Understanding in its Southern Neighbourhood" (June 2025). She reflected upon the EU cooperation policy in the region from a human rights perspective and discussed solutions for the monitoring of the informal agreements and related funding and improving the human rights conditionality in the EU policy tools.
- Mariolina Eliantonio was invited as a speaker to the European Central Bank's Legal Conference (September 2025). She contributed to the panel 'Independent administrative discretion and the rule of law', which compared developments in the EU and US in this area focusing both on legislative measures and the case-law of the CJEU and US Supreme Court.
- Valentina Golunova was invited to participate in the multistakeholder roundtable on the Digital Services Act & Dutch general elections by Autoriteit Consument & Markt (September 2025). As part of the roundtable, she presented her research on the regulation of political deepfakes in the EU and compliance of Very Large Online Platforms.
- Sarah Tas was appointed as a member of the Consultative Forum of Europol (November 2025). In this capacity, she provides expert input on any relevant EU legislative and policy initiatives and actively contributes to the development and implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy.
- Lilian Tsourdi was invited as an expert speaker to the 12th Meeting of the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Migration (December 2025). Together with Catherine Warin, she presented the Division on Migration and Refugees (DMR) thematic paper titled 'Vulnerability of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees: Council of Europe and EU standards'.

ICGI - Institute for Corporate Law, Governance and Innovation Policies

- *Elverding conferences*
In 2019 Mieke Olaerts and Rob Bauer (of the School of Business and Economics) were appointed to a joint endowed chair called the Elverding Chair on Sustainable Business, Culture and Corporate Regulation. The chair is sponsored by a number of companies and aims to foster an interdisciplinary approach to the field of study. It allows us to bring together insight from the legal field with regard to corporate regulation on the one hand and finance on the other. It allows for the appointment of staff members with an interdisciplinary background helping us to grow further in this area and to have an outreach to the business community as well as to the local community by organising events under this heading. An example of this are the yearly conferences. In 2022 and 2023 two Elverding conferences took place in Maastricht. The topic of the conference

held in 2023 was: Enhancing sustainable business and corporate regulation in the EU. It combined a group of renowned national and international speakers.

- *Conference on Loyalty and Multiple Voting Rights in Europe (including special issue about this topic in European Company Law)*
This conference was organized on 15 May 2025 by Maastricht University in collaboration with the University of Antwerp. Researchers from the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, France, Germany and Italy all gave presentations on the topic of loyalty and multiple voting rights. Several of these presentations were based on contributions to a special issue for European Company Law co-edited by Bastiaan Kemp.
- *Dag van de Limburgse commissaris (organised by ICGI, Thuis Partners, Delfin Board in Balance with contribution by Mieke Olaerts)* Every year the ICGI takes part in organising as well as presenting at the Dag van de Limburgse commissaris. This is a conference organised together with two other partners where we discuss with a broader audience the findings of our research specifically with regard to the role of Supervisors (non-executive board members). It enables an outreach and a dissemination to both the local community, corporate practice and a specific group of professionals: supervisors (non-executives) and their advisors.
- *Roundtable event to discuss the findings of the WODC research on the evaluation of the reflection period* During this event which was held in Amsterdam on 10th November 2025 we discussed the finding of our research with representatives of institutional investors, corporate practice and academics. We also asked several speakers to reflect on the findings of our research.

IGIR - Institute for Globalisation and International Regulation

- The European Intellectual Property Innovation Network (EIPIN) has been established by IGIR members Anke Moerland and Anselm Kamperman Sanders as a charitable foundation under Dutch law as a continuation of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation (European Joint Doctorate under Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 721733). The network is expanding with the aim to support and elevate young researchers by providing them with access to vital advice, resources (i.e. an annual seminar and PhD workshop and a book series), and innovative methodologies that propel their work to the forefront of controversial and cutting-edge topics in intellectual property.
- IGIR participated in Making Agricultural Trade Sustainable (MATS), an interdisciplinary consortium funded under EU Horizon 2020 and comprising 14 partners in the North and the South. MATS focused on changes in agricultural trade policy that foster positive and reduce negative impacts of trade on sustainable development and human rights, including through 25 case studies across various countries (most in the South). IGIR member Andre Nunes, together with other members Anselm Kamperman Sanders, Dominic Coppens and Kalpana Tyagi, led the work on how institutional and regulatory frameworks shape agricultural trade and sustainability, including through unilateral (e.g., EU Green Deal) and cooperative frameworks (e.g., trade agreements).
- The large-scaled inter-disciplinary conference 'Competition & IP in the Digital Markets: A comparative & inter-disciplinary perspective' was organized at UM Campus Brussels on 23-24 June 2022, involving many speakers, discussants, chairpersons and audience members. The organizing committee included IGIR members (Kalpana Tyagi, Anselm Kamperman Sanders) and METRO members (Niels Philipsen, Michael

Faure; both at IGIR now; and Caroline Cauwman). An edited volume and several blogs were published as a result, besides recordings of the sessions. Two successful follow-up conferences (involving also some external co-organizers) were organized in 2023 and 2024.

- IGIR member Denise Prevost, together with input from IGIR member Dominic Coppens, co-organised a workshop on 'Climate Change Litigation: International Legal Perspectives' in the context of the *Ius Commune* Annual Conference of 2024. The papers presented at this conference were developed into articles for a Special Issue of the *Netherlands International Law Review* (forthcoming 2026), edited by Denise Prevost, Jan Wouters and Machiko Kanetake.
- IGIR member Dominic Coppens led an interdisciplinary SUM2030 project on accelerating the transition to a fossil-free society, focusing on aligning science, law, and strategy to foster the shift to biobased plastics. The project ran from 2023 to 2025 and was implemented in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE). Through various activities, the project brought together researchers, students, policymakers and other stakeholders to achieve a high scientific and societal impact, such as: an academic interdisciplinary workshop on bio-based plastics together with external researchers, several lectures by IGIR members for FSE students and researchers, regular interdisciplinary meetings with students from both faculties, co-supervision by IGIR of FSE bachelor's thesis, a joint poster by IGIR members and FSE, and a major event on the global plastics treaty negotiations (see below, achievement 6). The project has planted the seeds for interdisciplinary collaboration between IGIR and FSE focused on the shift towards an inclusive and circular plastics economy.
- On 28 and 29 October 2025, IGIR members Dominic Coppens and Belen Gracia organized a two-day event on the global plastics treaty negotiations, together with the Circular Plastics Chair and the Chair of Sustainability of Chemicals and Materials at the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE). This was the first international academic event to take stock of the global plastics treaty negotiations since the latest round of negotiations in August 2025 (Geneva), in which both Dominic and Belen had participated. The event was designed to generate high societal and academic impact by bringing together leading stakeholders in the negotiations and academics, thereby contributing directly to the ongoing plastic treaty negotiations and to academic research on this topic. To achieve this objective, the event included (1) a closed full-day interdisciplinary expert seminar with leading stakeholders involved in the negotiations (e.g., scholars, policymakers, civil society, and industry), including negotiators from the Dutch and Belgian governments and the former lead EU negotiator); and, (2) a large-scale interdisciplinary public conference on the plastics treaty negotiations, organized at the Brightlands Chemelot Campus, featuring a panel discussion with leading stakeholders and an active debate with an audience of students and researchers from different UM faculties, Chemelot-based companies, and external scholars and stakeholders.

ITEM - Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross border cooperation and Mobility

- *ITEM Annual Conference, 2016-2024*
As of 2016, ITEM organises an Annual Conference. This conference is an important occasion to bring together knowledge on cross-border cooperation from different fields and levels. Research results from various ITEM projects are presented and reflections are made on various cross-border cases and initiatives that are undertaken during the year or can be presented as best-practice. Bringing together academics, practice and policymakers at national and European level allows for broad dissemination. Quite

uniquely, the conference is organised at different (border) provinces, in close cooperation with the provincial level both in terms of content and financing.

- *Leidraad Grenseffecten & Helpdesk Grenseffecten with BZK, 2021-2025*
As of 2019, ITEM's methodology for testing border effects is used in policymaking in the Netherlands by the Leidraad Grenseffecten. By order of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, ITEM has made a guidance document within the obligatory framework for the process of policymaking. Next to this, ITEM was assigned to provide workshops for ministries on the methodology and act as a helpdesk for the Ministry of Interior and other departments on questions of cross-border effects. An example is the bill on limiting the internationalisation of students. As mentioned, the method is now also expanded to Germany in the framework of the German-France Treaty of Aachen.
- *Schakelpunt Grensbelemmeringen Vlaanderen – Nederland, 2024 – 2027*
ITEM is involved in many Interreg projects, 15+ in the period of the midterm review. The Interreg project *Schakelpunt Grensbelemmeringen Vlaanderen – Nederland* is an important Interreg project in this regards. After the completion of the report *Inventarisatie knelpunten North Sea Port*, delivered by ITEM, a high-level administrative working group between the Netherlands and Flanders worked out an advice on the Dutch-Flemish governments on the approach toward border obstacles. This resulted in the Schakelpunt, which is a cooperation between the Dutch ministry of Interior, Province of Zeeland, Province of East-Flanders, the Flemish government, UHasselt and ITEM. Mandated by the Dutch-Flemish governments, the Schakelpunt is responsible for gathering, analysing and advising on solutions to persisting border obstacles. Therefore, it can be seen as new update to the cross-border governance.
- *ITEM Cross-Border Impact Assessment, 2015-2025*
Since 2015 ITEM publishes annually a Cross-Border Impact Assessment, based on several dossiers. Up to 2025, 60 dossiers were investigated on cross-border effects. The dossiers are always topical and based on societal developments. Next to the method itself, also the different dossiers have resulted in impact. Four dossiers were written in an European consortium of TEIN, covering multiple border regions.
- *B-Solutions with DG REGIO (European Commission)*
Over the years, ITEM has developed a close cooperation with DG REGIO and other European stakeholders. An important framework in the European context is the B-solutions project, where border obstacles are analysed. ITEM is an expert in B-Solutions, resulting in about 20 cases analysed and advised by ITEM. It also resulted in political discussions and workshops, among others during the European Week of Regions and Cities of 2025 on the future developments of EU approaches to border obstacles.
- *Structural cooperation with the Benelux Union*
Over the last five years, ITEM and the Benelux Union have organised several workshops and symposia on actual topics. Examples of 2025 are on cross-border public transport and ticketing, and the recognition of qualifications. The cooperation between ITEM and the Benelux Union grew over the years, where for the last 1,5 years an expert of ITEM was also seconded at the Benelux Union to help with the progress and development in the topic of recognition of qualifications and diplomas.

Law&TechLab - Maastricht Law and Tech Lab

- *CoCoDa (Concentration of Control and Data) - SNSF International Co-Investigator Scheme – CoCoDa (Concentration of Control and Data) (1,118,716 CHF)* is a flagship

interdisciplinary research project that structurally integrates legal and computational approaches to platform governance. It directly addresses systemic societal risks related to dominant online platforms and the Digital Services Act. The project exemplifies the Lab's commitment to high-quality, collaborative, and societally relevant research programming.

- *Am AI Right? - NWO-SGW Open Competition Law and Administration 2023 (2024-2029; €839.146)* advances access to justice by developing AI-driven tools that support legal literacy and legal problem-solving for citizens. It combines high-quality dataset creation, methodological innovation, and experimentation with generative AI. The project has clear societal impact and aligns strongly with the Technology for Law research agenda.
- *RegTech4AI – NWO – 4 PhD students + 1 postdoc* addresses the persistent gap between AI regulation and enforcement by developing regulatory technologies to support authorities and businesses. The project contributes to societal trust in AI systems and builds on earlier empirical findings about GDPR compliance failures. It reflects strong alignment with policy impact and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- *HANDEL: Health Data Governance and Legal Adaptation* is a joint project between UM Law and MUMC+ that studies the real-world implementation of complex health data governance frameworks. It strengthens research quality through empirical legal research and contributes to societal impact in healthcare and data governance. The project exemplifies sustained interdisciplinary collaboration between law and medicine.
- *TrackerControl* (www.trackercontrol.org) is an open-source Android app that enables both research and public awareness regarding data tracking and privacy practices. With large-scale adoption, it has clear societal impact and supports evidence-based policy discussions on data protection. It also exemplifies the Lab's commitment to open science and reusable research infrastructure.

MCEL - Maastricht Centre for European law

- *A European Research Council Starting Grant* was awarded to Lilian Tsourdi, for her project: Soft enforcement of EU migration law (SoftEn) (2025-2029). This grant does not only recognise the excellence of the research carried out by Lilian, but also appreciates the innovative character of the project. The project, including two PhD researchers and one post doc researcher, brings together academics, students and practitioners. All publications will be published in open access. This project nicely connects with Lilian's Jean Monnet Chair in EU Migration Law and Governance (MILE) that she was awarded in 2023.
- *A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence grant* was awarded to Andrea Ott for the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Crises and Emergencies in EU Integration (EmergEU) (2024-2026). EmergEU is devoted to a common interdisciplinary research agenda and is led by Andrea Ott together with MCEL scholars Matteo Bonelli and Guido Bellenghi and colleagues Giselle Bosse and Esther Versluis of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Maastricht University. This grant confirms the excellence and the topical importance of the research theme. EmergEU explores how the EU has responded to past crises and emergencies and assesses potential legal and policy changes to enhance the EU's resilience from a legal and political science perspective. It nicely encourages collaboration between MCEL scholars amongst themselves and with their colleagues at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

- A *KNAW Fund Staatsman Thorbecke grant* was awarded to Monica Claes and Maarten Stremmer for their project *Van staatsrechtbeoefening naar constitutionele wetenschap (2022-2026)*. This project confronts constitutional law on paper with the practice where the exercise of public power is increasingly influenced by international and European as well as private actors and suggests that the practice of constitutional law must be reconnected to constitutional scholarship. It confirms the excellence of the scholarship of Monica and Maarten. The project will result in various publications.
- In 2022 Carlo Colombo was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship for his project *Governing the urban dimension of EU law (GUD EU LAW) (2023-2025)*. This project was hosted by the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics at Sciences Po in Paris.
- In 2024 Martina Coli was awarded the *cum laude iudicium* for her PhD thesis *The Values of the European Union as Legal Rules: Lessons from the Union's Reaction to Constitutional Backsliding*; double degree from the Universities of Maastricht and Florence.
- In 2025 Guido Bellenghi was awarded the Young FIDE award, assigned to the best speakers by a jury composed of Eleanor Sharpston, Miguel Poiares Maduro and Michal Bobek, for the presentation of his paper 'Is EU Emergency Law Really Emergency Law?' at the Young FIDE Seminar, Katowice, 2025,

MCHR - Maastricht Centre for Human Rights

- Fabian Raimondo was appointed, in 2025, as counsel and advocate for Bangladesh in the context of the Advisory Proceedings on ILO Convention No. 87 (Right to Strike) of the International Court of Justice, 2025. Furthermore, he was appointed as counsel and advocate for Sudan in the Advisory Proceedings on the Obligations of Israel in Respect of the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organisations and Third States in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, of the International Court of Justice. This follows his previous appointments in 2024 and 2022, respectively, as counsel and advocate for Sudan in the advisory proceedings on International Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change, of the International Court of Justice; and as counsel and advocate for Sudan, in the advisory proceedings on the Policies and Practices of Israel in Occupied Palestinian Territory, of the International Court of Justice.
- In 2024, Marieke Hopman and Guleid Jama received funding from the Dutch Research Council (NWO) for the CHILD-WAR project, a unique academic study investigating the rights and protection of children living in de facto (unrecognised) States during and after armed conflicts. As part of that project, they have so far managed three complex case studies in conflict-affected settings. This involved coaching student assistants and volunteer researchers, guiding and training local researchers for research interviews, and coordinating multi-country data collection and analysis.
- In May 2023, Lisa Waddington was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Université Saint Louis, Brussels in recognition of her outstanding expertise in disability law and equality issues.
- In February 2023, the Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations were adopted at an expert meeting at the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University. This normative document is the outcome of a project started in 2018 to develop a human rights-based approach to the rights of members of future

generations. It is the first international standard-setting text to adopt such an approach. Fons Coomans was one of the initiators of the project and a member of the Steering Committee, together with representatives of other universities and human rights non-governmental organisations. The Maastricht expert opinion builds upon other normative opinions of the Maastricht Centre in 1986, 1997 and 2011. The text of the Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations has been published on www.rightsoffuturegenerations.org. Notably, the Inter-American Court on Human Rights has referred to the Maastricht Principles in its 2025 Advisory Opinion on the legal obligations of states in relation to climate change.

- Over the last few years, Andrea Broderick has been re-appointed as Senior Expert in the European Commission's European Disability Expertise network. She has also been re-elected by the members of the 100+ universities in the Global Campus of Human Rights to the Executive Committee of the European Master Programme on Human Rights and Democratisation. The Programme forms part of the Global Campus of Human Rights.
- In 2024 and 2025, respectively, Skander Galand was appointed to the UM Human Rights Advisory Committee and as Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Reports on UN Human Rights Law.

MCLJ - Maastricht Centre for Law & Jurisprudence

- Maarten Stremmer has been awarded a research grant of € 189,255 from the Thorbecke Fund of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). The grant supports a research project that examines the implications for constitutional scholarship of the fact that constitutional law is no longer exclusively tied to, or centred on, the nation state, but increasingly also regulates supranational authorities and private power.
- Agustin Parise has been appointed as Editor in-Chief of the journals *Comparative Legal History* (UK), *Revista de Historia del Derecho* (Argentina), and as Associate Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Civil Law Studies* (USA).
- Antonia Waltermann and Michele Ubertone are members of a project consortium that has been awarded an Erasmus+ grant of €423,947 from the European Commission for the RECOGNISE project. The consortium focused on research and the development of educational materials on legal reasoning and the cognitive sciences, with a particular emphasis on heuristics and biases in adjudication. Antonia Waltermann was the project lead from Maastricht. As part of the project, the consortium organised multiple conferences and monthly seminars and published a peer-reviewed gold open-access book with contributions by leading scholars in legal philosophy and the cognitive sciences.
- Roland Pierik has been awarded €36.000 by the Dutch Tax Administration (Belastingdienst) for a research project entitled: "In connection with society." This legal-philosophical study explored the non-formal foundations of the Tax Administration's task in its reciprocal relationship with society.
- In 2025, Massimo Fichera was invited to serve as Visiting Professor at the Università La Sapienza, Rome, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law.

- Monica Garcia-Salmones was elected a member of the Coordinating Committee of the *European Society of International Law*, Interest Group on the History of International Law.

MCT - Maastricht Centre for Taxation

- *Contribution to OECD Consultation on Global Mobility of Individuals (January 2026)*. The MCT submitted expert input on the taxation of cross-border and remote work, highlighting issues with the application of Article 15 of the OECD Model, social security coordination, and compliance burdens for mobile employees. The submission proposed thresholds and guidance to harmonize tax and social security rules, contributing to international tax policy discussions.
- *International Online Conference on AI and the Future of Tax Law (17-18 December 2025)*. Hosted by the MCT, this online conference attended by more than 100 participants and including more than 15 speakers, explored how artificial intelligence is transforming tax compliance, enforcement, and lawmaking. Panels addressed practical applications (e.g., automated VAT classifications, real-time risk analysis) as well as normative and legal questions (taxpayer rights, proportionality, transparency, and constitutional boundaries). The event highlighted ongoing research at the MCT on digitalization, automation, and AI in taxation. A special journal issue of "British Tax Review" is planned as an outcome of this conference.
- *33rd Maastrichts Fiscaal Symposium (7 November 2025)*. Organized annually, this symposium is the longest-running fiscal law event of the MCT, bringing together academics and practitioners (in Dutch). The 33rd edition focused on combating abuse in corporate and withholding taxes, examining European directives (ATAD, Parent-Subsidiary Directive) and their impact on domestic and cross-border taxation. MCT researchers presented their latest findings alongside experts from the Dutch tax administration and Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- *Seminar International Supply Chain Taxation (3rd edition, 26 March 2025)*. The MCT hosted the third edition of this international seminar, focusing on the digital transformation of indirect taxation and its impact on international supply chains. Featuring speakers from academia and practice, the seminar series strengthens MCT's profile in indirect tax and the taxation of international supply chains.
- *17th GREIT Conference: National Tax Autonomy and the European Union (5-6 October 2023)*. The MCT organized this international conference in Maastricht, discussing the limits of Member States' autonomy under EU law and the implications of recent initiatives such as BEFIT, the Green Deal, and state aid rules. The conference brought together leading academics from different fields, combining scholarly insights with practical perspectives on EU tax harmonization.

M-EPLI - Maastricht European Private Law Institute

- In 2022, Anna Beckers received a European Research Council Starting Grant to lead the project CHAINLAW - Responsive Law for Global Value Chains (2023-2028) CHAINLAW will develop a novel conceptual and normative legal language for Global Value Chains (GVCs). GVCs are the interconnected trade structures that underlie the production of commodities and offering of services. While GVCs have been intensively theorised in the social sciences, they are largely unknown as legal categories. This is highly problematic when the law is starting to legislate or decide cases about supply-chain responsibility. The core aim of CHAINLAW is to provide the concepts necessary

for law to be able to develop appropriate and effective legislation for GVCs and appropriate approaches to supply-chain liability.

- Two M-EPLI members received an honorary doctorate. In May 2025, Marta Pertegás Sender received an honorary doctorate from Lund University for her contributions to the development of Private International Law over the past decades. Besides her teaching and research, she serves as a member of GEDIP/EGPIL (European Group of Private International Law), is the co-author (with Michael Bogdan) of the book *Concise introduction to EU Private International Law* and leads several research projects commissioned by the European Commission. For instance, FAMIMOVE explores the interface between migration law and private international law, with a particular focus on the interests of children, and it is thus a project with a natural link to several of the Faculty's research institutes and groups. In November of the same year, Michael Faure was awarded a honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Law of the University of Bremen. With this distinction, the university recognised the significance of Faure's scientific contribution to the field of transnational law, a core theme of M-EPLI.
- As an example of targeted activity with high scientific impact, M-EPLI hosted a two-day international conference addressing the full range of core doctrinal issues arising from the new Product Liability Directive in October 2024, and incorporating normative and comparative perspectives. This conference provided one of the earliest comprehensive academic forums dedicated to the systematic analysis of the new Product Liability Directive; it facilitated high-level doctrinal discussion and methodological cross-fertilisation and generated original scholarly insights with lasting relevance for academic research and subsequent publications in the field. The proceedings of the conference are in print.
- In 2023, members of M-EPLI were awarded the European Commission's Silver Product Safety Award in the category of Senior Researchers for the paper *"What's Wrong with This Product?": Detection of Product Safety Issues Based on Information Consumers Share Online* (M. Fuchs, A. Jadhav, A. Jaishankar, C. Cauffman, and G. Spanakis). The paper, that was based on a research project carried out together with computer science master students, presents a general framework that can be beneficial for regulatory authorities, as well as a specific application to consumer electronics. Its methodology and dataset are valuable resources for regulatory authorities in the EU. Both the paper and the dataset are published open access.
- M-EPLI is committed to the development of networks with local and regional stakeholders. It played a leading role in the organisation of the Private Law Network Day, held under the auspices of the Law Hub Limburg on 17 November 2025. During this event, M-EPLI engaged with regional stakeholders to explore the role of private law in addressing major societal challenges, including sustainability and public-private cooperation. This initiative represents a key important achievement in terms of societal impact because it translated academic expertise into concrete dialogue with regional stakeholders facing practical legal and policy challenges, thereby supporting local and regional development.
- On 23 september 2025, Bram Van Hofstraeten gave a lecture 'Grenzen in vroegmodern Limburg' in a lecture series organised by Studium Generale. Through this lecture, Bram was able to share the results of his academic research with a broad non-academic audience. The lecture delves deeper into the challenges faced by early modern civil courts in Limburg and demonstrates that these challenges were closely comparable to those encountered by the contemporary justice system.

MICS - Maastricht Institute for Criminal Sciences

- Elvira Loibl received the Edmond Hustinx Prize for Science 2024 and Giulia Giardi's the UM Dissertation Prize 2025, recognising outstanding scientific quality, originality, and societal relevance.
- The organisation of two important agenda-setting conferences: the international conference on Truth & Authority (Maastricht, October 2025), a multi-panel and multi-workshop interdisciplinary event which addressed the contemporary demystification of authority and truth in criminal law, criminology, and criminal procedure. The conference brought together perspectives on topics such as conspiracy thinking and social truth, artificial intelligence and evidence, credibility assessment, and the changing role of expertise in criminal justice, thereby contributing to agenda-setting and scientific impact across disciplines. The June 2023 conference launching the Virtual Criminal Justice Network (VCJN)—an interdisciplinary research hub bringing together scholars from around the world and now comprising over 150 members, based in Maastricht—has strengthened international research networks, fostered interdisciplinary collaboration, and contributed to agenda-setting in criminal justice research.
- The growth of the interfaculty research group Maastricht University Science in Court (MUSiC). MUSiC brings together researchers from multiple faculties (FL, FSE, FHML, FPN) around criminal justice and scientific evidence, with concrete outputs including a fully booked Studium Generale lecture series on wrongful convictions (October–November 2024), public symposia on overcrowded prisons (June 2025), and the international special issue “The Science Behind Wrongful Convictions” (2025) in progress at Sciencedirect (OA). Building on this success, MUSiC is now expanding towards structurally shared PhD positions and joint project funding, illustrating sustainable interdisciplinarity and research entrepreneurship beyond faculty boundaries. It is a prominent example of continuous inter-faculty collaboration.
- NWO/NWA-ORC funded project COMCRIM on crimes undermining democracy (Jill Coster van Voorhout, 3.3m): COMCRIM is an interdisciplinary research project that studies crimes that undermine democracy and the rule of law (rechtsstaat-ondermijnende criminaliteit, or ondermijning) in and via the Netherlands. The project is conducted by an impressive and unique public-private consortium of 22 partners, including four universities, ministries, banks, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, NGOs, and network organisations. With over 28 researchers from more than nine disciplines, COMCRIM explores the systemic drivers of organised crime and develops proactive, evidence-based interventions that foster resilience of democracy and the rule of law.
- WODC-funded project: Femicide in de Nederlandse rechtspraak: juridische erkenning en straftoemeting (van der Aa, Ritzen et al): This commissioned research project examines how femicide, understood as the gender-related killing of women or girls, is addressed in Dutch criminal law practice. Although femicide is not a formal legal concept in the Netherlands, the project investigates whether and how it is implicitly or explicitly recognised in legal reasoning and whether it influences sentencing outcomes. The study combines doctrinal research, quantitative case law analysis, interviews with practitioners and scholars, a vignette study involving judges and prosecutors, and a comparative legal analysis across several European jurisdictions. The project aims to assess the extent to which gender-related aspects are taken into account in the legal qualification, assessment, and sentencing of cases involving the (attempted) killing of women.

- EU-Justice Programme-funded: Project MR 2.0 on mutual recognition in criminal matters (Klip, Ancona): MR2.0 examines the practical application of EU and international instruments for judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which are largely based on mutual recognition and mutual trust and cover all stages of criminal proceedings. In practice, judicial authorities often face multiple cooperation options for the same case, without clear guidance on how to choose between them. The project focuses on promoting an effective and coherent application of these instruments by ensuring that all relevant options are considered and that choices are proportionate and consistent. Building on earlier projects (ImprovEAW and InAbsentEAW), MR2.0 aims to strengthen judicial cooperation while minimising unnecessary interference with individual freedom.

MILE - Maastricht Institute for Legal Education

- Nicole Kornet won the Wynand Wijnen Education Prize 2025, for her work as Director of Studies Bachelor European Law School.
- Sjoerd Claessens has become a member of the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Legal Education.

METRO

- METRO researchers Michael Faure and Niels Philipsen were actively involved in a large FP7 project [EFFACE](#) (EU Action to Fight Environmental Crime), inter alia leading the Work Package on Conclusions and participating in various other Work Packages related to economic and empirical approaches to measuring and assessing environmental crime. Also in the years following that project (which finished in 2016) and covering the reporting period of this midterm report, several book and journal publications on this domain followed. An example is Michael Faure's work on smart enforcement, published inter alia in the Journal of Risk Research in 2020. The work of EFFACE, and Michael Faure's work in particular, has had a big influence on the [Environmental Crime Directive](#) adopted by the European Commission in 2024.
- Several open access publications by METRO scholars include a comparative legal analysis of EU and Chinese competition law. The work often includes collaborations between (former) PhD researchers and METRO scholars. Examples include a special issue on competition law published in the Springer journal China-EU law Journal (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12689-023-00104-5>) and a paper on "[Tying in digital platforms under competition law: Comparing Tencent and Android](#)" by Qian Wu and Niels Philipsen published in the *Journal of Competition Law and Economics* in 2023.