
NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL RESEARCH

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These are times of expectant suspension, between deadlines that move forward and backward. These are, however, also times of exemplary participation and commitment, such as UCILeR always demands, even when its appeals seem not to exist. Doesn't our Journal Undecidedabilities and Law request these same levels of participation and commitment? It certainly does! And there is not a better occasion to highlight this, when we have two relevant calls with generous deadlines (concerning issues 4 and 5) [see *infra*], open to (and expecting responses from) all areas of Law and with "guest editors" who, due to their immense prestige, need no introduction - Professor Marek Sadowski (University of Łódź) and Professors Anne Wagner (University of Lille) and Sarah Marusek (University of Hawai'i Hilo). These calls certainly summon external voices, but they also expect (demand) internal voices. Only then will there be conditions to develop the dialogue that such editors and such topics deserve.

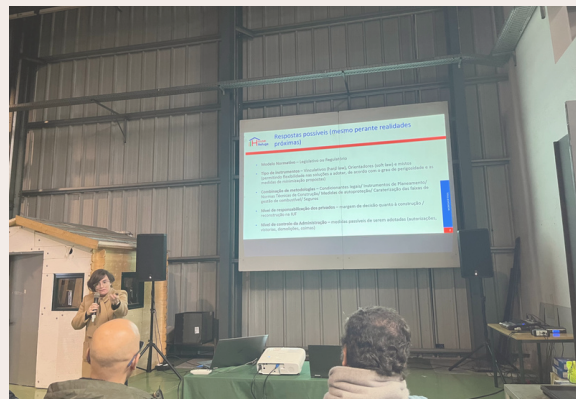
J M Aroso Linhares



INSTITUTO JURÍDICO
FACULDADE DE DIREITO
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I. Latest UCILeR events



Final workshop of the "House Refuge" project

On 10 January, the final workshop of the House Refuge Project was held with the participation of our researchers Dulce Lopes and Karoline Vitali.

During this event, which took place at the Laboratory for Forest Fire Studies (LEIF), located at the Lousã Aerodrome, tests were carried out to demonstrate how the protection solutions studied in the project work.

The House Refuge project ended on 14 January. It was funded by the FCT and had as partners the Association for the Development of Industrial Aerodynamics - ADAI (coordinator), Itecons and the UCILeR.



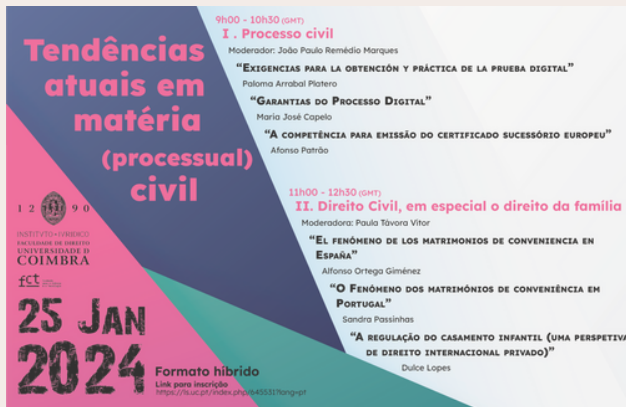
Artificial intelligence and the maintenance of public order: the impact of the proposed regulation on artificial intelligence on Portuguese law

On 18 January 2024, the Conference Artificial Intelligence and the Maintenance of Public Order: Impact of the Proposed Regulation on Artificial Intelligence on Portuguese Law was held at the Colégio da Trindade.

This conference was dedicated to research on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Artificial Intelligence of 21 April 2021, in particular on the use of artificial intelligence to maintain public order.

In addition to the guest speakers, the event included a session to present papers, resulting from the prior call for them.

This event is part of the project "Artificial Intelligence and the Maintenance of Public Order" implemented by master's and doctoral students, under the supervision of Susana Aires de Sousa, as part of a call for exploratory projects from Researchers' Camp 2023.



Current trends in (procedural) civil matters

On 25 January 2024, the event Current trends in civil (procedural) law was held in a hybrid format. This event analysed some civil (procedural) law issues that are still contentious and that correspond to societal issues with a legal impact, such as digital evidence, the use of inheritance certificates, marriages of convenience, and child marriages.

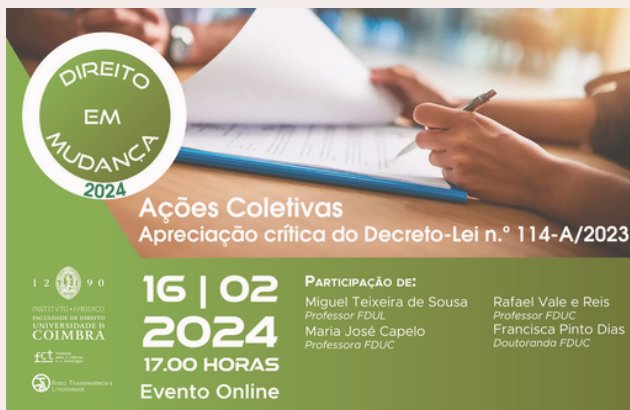


Researchers' Camp 2024

Researchers' Camp 2024 was held at Colégio da Trindade from 5 to 9 February and was attended by PhD students from various educational institutions.

This year's edition covered various topics, such as innovation and academic entrepreneurship; publishing academic articles; literature review and tools to support academic writing; using artificial intelligence; research methodologies; and time management strategies, among others. At the end, participants were invited to present a proposal for social innovation and/or science communication.

In addition to researchers from the UCILeR, the training sessions also featured external speakers who broadened the range of knowledge in this year's programme.



Changing Law: Class Actions - Critical Appraisal of the Decree-Law 114-A/2023

The webinar Changing Law: Class Actions - Critical Appraisal of Decree-Law no. 114-A/2023 was held on 16 February 2024. In this event, Miguel Teixeira de Sousa (Professor FDUL), Maria José Capelo (Professor FDUC), Rafael Vale e Reis (Professor FDUC), and Francisca Pinto Dias (PhD student FDUC) discussed Decree-Law 114-A/2023, which establishes the legal regime applicable to national and transnational collective actions for the protection of consumer rights and interests. The debate was moderated by our integrated researcher Maria João Antunes.



Conference on domestic and gender-based violence

The conference on domestic and gender-based violence - from the European plan to national good practices (the Portuguese and Italian experiences) was held on 23 February 2024 in the Chapel of the Colégio da Trindade. Amongst other things, various aspects of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence against women in the context of family and intimacy were discussed. The event was scientifically coordinated by our researcher Ana Rita Alfaiate, with the collaboration of Daniela Marcello, the Family Law Centre, and the Università di Firenze.

II. Latest UCILeR publications

a) UCILeR publications



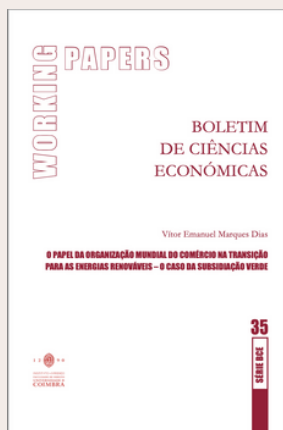
The Introduction of the Ecological Footprint in the Rules of Public Procurement

Author: Luís Eduardo Andreazi

ISBN: 978-989-9075-48-1

Year: 2023

Abstract: The scope of the present thesis is to study a possible integration of methodologies linked to the ecological footprint into the Portuguese and European public procurement rules. This idea is based on the constant emergence and strengthening of norms and environmental aspects in the various branches of domestic and European law, as a result of a growing legislative impulse that aims not only to confront climate change, but in particular to set the European Union on a path towards sustainable development. It is in this context that our analysis of the legal-administrative norms related to public procurement is placed, an attempt to boost green public purchases and develop the proliferation of norms and environmental aspects in public procurement, especially regarding the development of economic activities by economic operators participating in public procurement procedures. The path taken for the implementation of this whole idea covers four main points: firstly, the presentation of what constitutes an ecological footprint and other indicators associated with it, understanding the advantages and disadvantages of its application; secondly, the study of European and Portuguese public procurement rules, seeking to understand how they receive environmental factors and criteria, and how they can be related to such an ecological footprint; thirdly, the compatibility between the fundamental principles of public procurement and the introduction of the ecological footprint as a contractual criterion; and finally and fourthly, the analysis of a European Commission Recommendation responsible for structuring an ecological footprint, a methodology that could be introduced in the legal systems relevant to public procurement. Only once all these points are understood, will we be able to comprehend how contemporary legal systems support the introduction of environmental aspects within the rules and principles of public procurement, and how we should proceed legally and legislatively so that that footprint is integrated within this context, at which time we would be able to expose our conclusions and present our recommendations on how this idea should unfold in this legal branch of Administrative Law.



The World Trade Organization's Role in the Transition to Renewable Energies: The Case of Green Subsidies

Author: Vítor Emanuel Marques Dias
 ISBN: 978-989-8891-76-1
 Year: 2024

Abstract: Climate change, in the past few years, has been one of the most prominent themes in public discourse, being also one of the most relevant matters in international trade. For this reason, this study begins with one of the problems that has received the most attention in this regard, action on fossil fuel subsidies, a difficult task to carry out and one dependent on the WTO's currently paralysed Dispute Settlement Body. Given the difficulty of restricting these benefits, a reform was recently instituted that aims to terminate such subsidies, whilst at the same time not unduly prejudicing the economic needs of nations whose economy depends on the exploration of fossil fuels. On a different note, there has also been great debate over the (in)compatibility of environmentally friendly subsidies with the WTO's legislation, with numerous proposals being presented to bypass the impositions of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

The full text is available in open access [here](#).



Border Carbon Adjustment Mechanism and Compatibility with World Trade Organization's Standards: Match or Swipe Left?

Author: Marcelo António Carneiro Rocha
 ISBN: 978-989-8891-77-8
 Year: 2024

Abstract: To meet the objectives of the EU's Fit for 55 package, the European Commission proposes to implement a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) to replace free allowances for the most trade-exposed emitting industries. CBAM is primarily intended to prevent carbon leakage, but also addresses the thorny issue of compliance by European producers in carbon-intensive industries. Its design in the current Regulation questions compatibility with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. The purpose of this paper is to set out the Regulation's regime and learn about all points of (in)compatibility with the GATT).

The full text is available in open access [here](#).

I. Internal life of the UCILeR



Post-Doc Programme in Law

Applications for the first phase of the postdoctoral programme in law closed on 29 February. The second round of applications will run from 2 May to 30 June 2024.

The postdoctoral programme is a specialised doctoral one recognised by the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. Find out more about the branches and areas of specialisation, the regulations, and the application form [here](#).



Project applications

The UCILeR submitted two applications for international funding in the last two months. The first was for a Jean Monnet Chair, funded by the Erasmus+ programme, entitled "GSL4EUGrowth - Governance, Sustainability, and Litigation in the EU: How to Protect the Environment and Human Rights while Promoting Business Development and Growth in the EU", coordinated by our integrated researcher Rui Dias. The second was submitted to Cluster 2 of Horizon Europe under the name "FRAISE - Framing the impact of rule of law against socio-economic aspirations". The UCILeR team is led by our integrated researcher Alexandre Dias Pereira, as a member of the consortium coordinated by the University of Tallinn.



EU-CIEMBLY kick-off meeting

The Colégio da Trindade hosted the kick-off meeting of the "EU-CIEMBLY: Creating an Inclusive European Citizens' Assembly" from 20 to 22 February 2024. Having officially started in January, the project team was in Coimbra for a key working meeting to define the work plan for the next four years. Coordinated by the UCILeR, the project has 11 partner institutions from 10 countries and 3 continents. In addition to the UC, there are the Universities of Essex, Complutense de Madrid, Witwatersrand Johannesburg, Bergamo, Victoria Wellington, and Waikato, as well as the associations Aspon, Institute for Methods Innovation, and Make.org. At the UCILeR, Dulce Lopes is the Principal Researcher of the project and leads the UC team made up of Alexandra Aragão, Fernando Borges, Lucia Muñoz, Clara Serrano, Joana Ricarte and Isabel Valente.

EU-CIEMBLY aims to design a new tool for participation in the EU, not only from a theoretical point of view but also by setting up pilot assemblies that will make it possible to formulate relevant legal and political recommendations in the field of citizen participation. The project is funded by the Horizon Europe programme.



II. UCILeR Scheduled Events



16 MARCH 2024

International Congress on Current Issues in Consumer Law

More information [here](#).



4-6 APRIL 2024

II Luso-Brazilian Congress of Philosophy of Law

More information [here](#).



9-11 MAY 2024

Supporting Capacity

More information soon

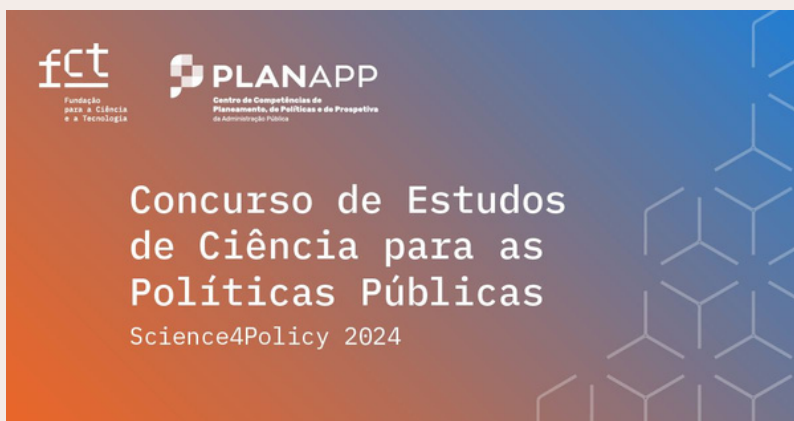


17 MAY 2024

5th Coimbra-Seville Conference on Administrative Law

More information [here](#).

III. UCILeR Challenges



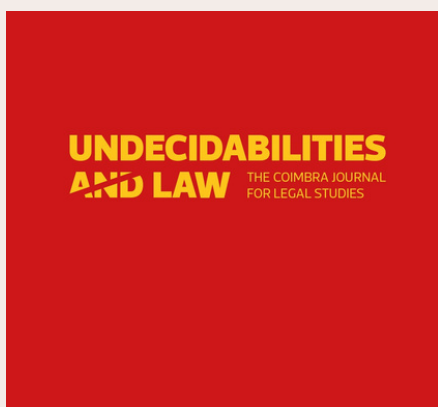
i) Science4Policy (S4P-24): Science for Public Policy Research Competition

Deadline: 2 April 2024

S4P-24 is aimed at organisations in the national scientific and technological system and aims to promote the production of scientific knowledge to respond to specific needs in various areas of public policy. Within the scope of the S4P competition, organisations in the national scientific and technological system submit project proposals for one of the 32 thematic lines (see [here](#)) within the framework of the Thematic Agendas of the Portugal 2030 Strategy. Each project must last a maximum of 12 months and end with the submission of a policy brief. The proposal's budget cannot exceed the maximum allocation indicated for the respective thematic line.

For information on the S4P-24 application process, please contact: concursoprojetos@fct.pt

More information [here](#).



ii) Call for papers: Undecidabilities and Law Volume IV (2024)

Theme: Legality and Proportionality in The Performance of Law

Editor: Marek Zirk-Sadowski - Uniwersytet Łódzki (University of Łódź)

Deadline: **31 May 2024**

More information [here](#)

iii) Call for papers: Undecidabilities and Law Volume V (2025)

Theme: Rhizomatic Law: Understanding the Linearity and Pendulum of Legal Evolution

Editors: Anne Wagner (Centre de Recherche Droits et Perspectives du droit (ULR 4487), équipe René Demogue - Lille University France) & Sarah Marusek (University of Hawai'i Hilo, USA)

Deadline: **30 June 2024**

More information [here](#)

UCILeR projects

The work plan of the UCILeR is based on reflection on legal solutions to contemporary issues. As a research unit, the UCILeR establishes a bridge between the UC's legal academic community and society through its various research projects. Each edition of the UCILeR Newsletter will feature UCILeR projects. Complete and detailed information on all UCILeR projects can be found [here](#).



I – POWER – Purpose-Ownership Extensive Reflection

Coordinator at the IJ/FDUC: Carolina Cunha

Objectives: The POWER project is divided into two axes, with national and international teams working collaboratively to achieve their objectives. At the national level the objectives are the following: 1) Identify the types of legal structures that can be used within the current Portuguese legal framework to implement the purpose-ownership model, highlighting their potential as well as any potential limitations; 2) Conduct a benchmarking analysis of solutions adopted in other countries, gathered through the international aspect of the project. This aims to identify legal mechanisms that have been tested or are under discussion elsewhere and subsequently assess their feasibility within the national legal context; 3) Develop a "catalogue" of suggestions for Portuguese companies to choose and work with a legal framework, within the existing regulatory framework, capable of implementing some distinctive features of the purpose-ownership model. The options considered will vary in complexity and cost, and the choice will depend significantly on the type and size of the company; and 4) It is anticipated that the project will result in a proposal for legal innovation vis-à-vis the existing positive law. This proposal will be based on the research and reflection conducted, including contributions from companies and comparative law analysis. The international work plan of the POWER project aims to achieve the following objectives: 1) Characterize the purpose-ownership phenomenon, including its essence and variations, and identify the main obstacles to its implementation; 2) Conduct comparative research in various EU Member States and other interested countries to gather insights and information; 3) Analyze and evaluate the results of this comparative research, identifying trends, challenges, problems, and preferable common solutions; and 4) Lay the foundations for a potential future model law on purpose-ownership at the European level, providing a framework for implementing purpose-ownership across different jurisdictions.



II - Fireurisk

Coordinator at the IJ/FDUC: Dulce Lopes

Purpose: Harmonizing and upgrading current European strategies by including the socio-economic circumstances that affect the occurrence of extreme wildfires as well as biophysical conditions, such as vegetation and climate. This mix of perspectives allows a better understanding of how vulnerable communities are to wildfires and which the best practices to adopt are.

Calls UCILeR



See previous issues of the Newsletter [here](#).

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