

**PRIVATE AND ECONOMIC LAW
DEPARTMENT (PREC)
FACULTY OF LAW AND
CRIMINOLOGY VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL (VUB)**

Final Conference DEUCE Project

**Digitalising EU Cross-Border Enforcement
for Consumers: Pathways to Effective Justice
in the Digital Single Market**



DEUCE

**Digitalising European
Uncontested Claims
Enforcement**

The event is free but registration is needed.
Please register [here](#) or scan the QR code:



19th -20th February 2026

Hoek 38 - Rue de Louvain 38 - 1000 Brussels



Co-funded by
the European Union



ELI

EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

DIGITAL LAW SIG

19th February 2026 14:00–17:30

14:00 – 14:30 OPENING AND WELCOME

Prof. Marco Giacalone (VUB) – *Project Coordinator, DEUCE*
Dr. Isabelle Perignon, *Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers*

PANEL 1 - ALGORITHMIC ENFORCEMENT, TRUST, AND CONSUMER REMEDIES

14:30-16:00

Chair: Evelyne Terryn (KU Leuven)

From rights to reality: bridging the digital enforcement gap
Marco Scialdone (Euroconsumers)

Liability and consumer protection in the age of autonomous AI
Pablo Martinez Ramil, Thomas Hoffmann and Angela Chiara Nardi (Taltech University)

Digital Inclusion and Access to Remedies
Sylvian Dorol (European Bailiffs' Foundation, EUBF)

Delegated Trust in Algorithmic Enforcement: Regulatory Intermediaries,
Digital Fairness, and Consumer Redress in the EU
Michael Sierra (Hebrew University Jerusalem)

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

PANEL 2 - DIGITALISING CIVIL ENFORCEMENT: THE DEUCE PROJECT

16:30-17:30

Chair: Marco Giacalone (VUB)

Digitalising Civil Enforcement: Infrastructure, Cooperation, and Access to Justice in the EU
Tatjana Josipovic and Ivana Kanceljak (Zagreb University)

Digitalisation as a New Dimension of Justice in the European Union
Marianna Molinari and Marco Giacalone (VUB)

Cross-Border Cooperation in the Era of Data Sovereignty
Lana Katarina Gotvan, Ambrož Korljan, Katarina Zajc (University of Ljubljana)

Access to Justice as Consumers' Understanding:
Epistemic Mediation in AI-Assisted Legal Interfaces
Andrea Filippo Ferraris, Susanna Picariello and Marco Giacalone (VUB)

17:30 – 17:45 Q&A and CLOSING REMARKS

20th February 2026 09:00 – 12:30

PANEL 3 - EU CROSS-BORDER ENFORCEMENT INSTRUMENTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

09:00–10:30

Chair: Alberto De Franceschi (Ferrara University)

Automated enforcement of consumer rights: Making consumer law really count

André Janssen (Radboud University)

From procedure to empowerment: do the European Order for Payment and the European Enforcement Order procedures efficiently serve creditors in the algorithmic age?

Rimantas Simaitis, Milda Markevičiūtė, Vigita Vėbraitė (Vilnius University)

Bringing Brussels I bis Closer to the European Enforcement Order

Nicolas Kyriakides, Eva Manolova and Nicoletta Zacharopoulos (University of Nicosia)

E-justice tools and crypto-enabled organised crime: Digital enforcement, cross-border cooperation, and procedural fairness in the European Union

Gioia Arnone (Palermo University and VUB)

Crypto-assets and public enforcement in the EU and USA

Emilia Richiello (VUB)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

PANEL 4 - DIGITAL ENFORCEMENT IN PRACTICE: NATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL PERSPECTIVES

11:00–12:15

Chair: Jachin Van Doninck (VUB)

European Uncontested Claims Enforcement in Hungary

Noémi Suri (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest)

The issuance of a European Order for Payment under Regulation (EC) No 1896/2006 and the procedures for lodging an opposition under Italian law

Giuseppe Fiengo (Civil Judge, Tribunale di Napoli)

A New Framework for Digital Civil Proceedings in Germany: Payment Claims before Local Courts

Magdalena Jankowska-Gilberg (Zentrum für Europäischen Verbraucherschutz)

Civil Procedure as Infrastructure: Estonia's Digital Civil Procedure Workflow and the Enforceability of Uncontested Claims

Thomas Hoffmann, Pablo Martinez Ramil and Karine Veersalu (Taltech University)

12:15 – 12:30 CLOSING REMARKS

Future of Digital Consumer Protection

19th February 2026

OPENING AND WELCOME



Marco Giacalone

Research Professor at the Private and Economic Law department (PREC) and Co-Director of the Research Group on Digitalisation and Access to Justice (DIKE) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He has been leading and/or involved in several collaborative research projects (co-)funded by the European Union. His work analyses the transformations of law in the field of Access to Justice with a special focus on the fields of Private International Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). He earned a Ph.D. in law (Doctor Europaeus, 2016) from VUB and Naples' University Federico II with a thesis on Dispute Resolution and New IT Realities.



Isabelle Pérignon

Director for 'Consumer policy' at the European Commission since October 2023. She was for four years (2019-2023) the Deputy Head of Cabinet of the former Commissioner for Justice. Before this position, she worked as Head of Unit 'Procedural criminal law' at the European Commission. Ms Pérignon was also a member of the Cabinet of several Commissioners, including Commissioner for Values and Transparency, the Czech Vera Jourova and former Commissioner for Home Affairs, the Swedish Cécilia Malmström.

Before joining the Commission in 2003, Isabelle Pérignon was a solicitor specialising in EU law and was a member of the French and Belgian bars. She worked at Baker McKenzie law firm under the supervision of Ms Christine Lagarde. She holds a Master's Degree in European Legal Studies (LLM College of Europe) and a Master in Business Studies.

PANEL 1

ALGORITHMIC ENFORCEMENT, TRUST, AND CONSUMER REMEDIES



Evelyne Terryn

Full professor at the KU Leuven of commercial law and consumer law and guest professor at UHasselt. She is co-director of the research institute Consumer Competition Market. Since 2025, she is vice rector at KU Leuven, also responsibility for sustainability. She studied law at the KU Leuven London (King's College) and Oxford (New College, MJur.). She obtained her PhD in 2005 at the KU Leuven (Right of withdrawal as in instrument of consumer protection - Raymond Derine prize). Her research focuses on European consumer law and contract law with a specific focus on sustainability. She has published extensively in this field.



Marco Scialdone

Lawyer and Adjunct Professor of AI Law at the European University of Rome. Holding a PhD in Legal Categories and Technologies, he specializes in the intersection of digital innovation, consumer protection and law. He currently serves as the Head of Litigation & Academic Outreach at Euroconsumers—the world’s leading international group of consumer organizations. Marco Scialdone holds several advisory roles, including positions at the Italian Institute for Privacy (IIP) and the NOVA IPSI Knowledge Center in Lisbon. A prolific author, his recent books include "Navigating the AI revolution" (2025) and "My data is mine" (2024).



Pablo Martinez Ramil

Lecturer at the Department of Law and a Researcher at the Institute for Law and Advanced Technologies at Palacký University Olomouc. His research focuses on European Union law and the regulation of digital technologies, with particular expertise in AI regulation, data protection and privacy, anti-discrimination law, and the EU’s emerging digital regulatory framework (DSA, DMA, and the AI Act). Pablo holds a Ph.D. and a Master’s degree in International and European Law from Palacký University Olomouc, a Master’s in Social and Political Leadership from Charles III University of Madrid, and Bachelor’s degrees in Law and in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Salamanca. He has also conducted research fellowships at the European New School of Digital Studies and at the University of Graz.



Sylvian Dorol

Partner and court-appointed officer. He is a recognized specialist in the judicial administration of evidence and intellectual property, he assists individuals, businesses, and institutional stakeholders in defending their rights, particularly in matters of official reports, digital litigation, unfair competition, and seizures of counterfeit goods. He is also an expert with the National Chamber of Court-Appointed Officers and the International Union of Judicial Officers, as well as a court-appointed mediator with the Versailles Court of Appeal. Alongside his work as a partner, he contributes to discussions on the future of the profession through conferences, publications, and university teaching (notably at the National School for the Judiciary (ENM) and Sciences Po), both in France and internationally. He has developed particular expertise in new evidentiary technologies (cyber-reports, blockchain, digital evidence), making him a leading figure in the fields of law and legal innovation. In 2025, he was recognized in the "Palmarès des 42", which lists the 42 most promising legal professionals under 42 years of age.



Michael Sierra

PhD student in Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializing in the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), under the supervision of Prof. Yuval Shany and Prof. David Levi-Faur. His doctoral research focuses on regulatory intermediaries and regulatory sandboxes as governance tools for AI, integrating perspectives from regulatory theory and human rights law.

He is a research fellow and scholar at the James J. Shasha Center for Strategic Studies, the Federmann Cyber Security Research Center – Cyber Law Program, and the Cheshin Center for Advanced Legal Studies. He previously served as a member of the editorial boards of Hukim Law Review and Israel Law Review, and currently serves as a peer reviewer, on an occasional basis, for i-lex – Journal of Law, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence. He is also a member of the Association of Italian Scholars and Scientists in Israel (AISSI).

He holds an LL.B. and an LL.M., as well as a B.A. in International Relations, all magna cum laude, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has served as a research and teaching assistant to multiple faculty members at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University, and the University of Haifa.

He is a member of the board of the Italian Community in Israel and previously worked at the Israel Democracy Institute and at the Supreme Court of Israel.

PANEL 2

DIGITALISING CIVIL ENFORCEMENT: THE DEUCE PROJECT



Tatjana Josipović

Professor of civil law of Faculty of Law, she acted as a member of the working groups that drafted the Inheritance Act, Property Act, Land Registry Act, Agricultural Land, Enforcement Act. She has written many papers and several books on civil law and European private law and presented papers in numerous national and international conferences. Prof. Tatjana Josipović was a head of the task-force preparing Croatia's accession negotiations in the chapter Right of Establishment and Freedom to Provide Services; member of the task-force preparing accession negotiations in the chapter Free Movement of Capital. She was awarded a research grant at the Max Planck Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht, Hamburg on several occasions. She is a recipient of the State Award for Science in the area of social sciences (2019).



Ivana Kanceljak

Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb; currently Head of the Faculty of Law Legal Clinic in Zagreb and Executive Editor of the Zbornik Pravnog fakulteta u Zagrebu (Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb Law Review). She has been employed at the Faculty since 2010 and obtained her PhD in 2016. She is involved in several European (JUST) projects and one project funded by the Croatian Science Foundation. Her research interests include the law of obligations and consumer protection.



Marianna Molinari

Joint Ph.D. Candidate in Law, Science and Technology at the University of Bologna and Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She obtained her graduation in Law from the University of Siena, with honors. In particular, she focused on new frontiers of Family Law, getting an LSS in Comparative Family Law at the University Carlos III of Madrid, jointly with the Seattle Law School and an LLM in Family Law at LUISS University of Rome.

Following her tenure at the University of Turin as both a research scholar and grant-holder, she transitioned to her current role at the University of Bologna and Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Her ongoing research explores the emerging field of predictive justice, delving into its potential application to cases concerning personal rights. In addition to her research, she brings practical experience as licensed to practice law by the Italian Bar and former auditor at an Italian Court of First Instance.



Lana Katharina Gotvan

Teaching assistant and researcher at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana. She is part of the Department of Legal and Economic Sciences and is especially interested in the field of behavioural law and economics. She completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana and completed the Magister Juris at the University of Oxford.



Ambroz Korljan

Researcher at the Department of Legal and Economic Sciences, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana (part-time) and Legal Advisor at German-Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry (full-time). Areas of interest include AI, data, cybersecurity, and energy law.



Andrea Filippo Ferraris

Joint PhD candidate in Law at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the University of Bologna, researching the use of Large Language Models to enhance legal accessibility, automate compliance processes, and promote ethical innovation. His work addresses digital legal frameworks, algorithmic decision-making, and access to justice through technology.



Susanna Picariello

Ph.D. candidate at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Her research focuses on the intersection of Generative AI and Law, with an emphasis on its regulation at the EU level. She graduated from the University of Naples “Federico II”, specialising in European Union Law, after a research period at the University of Denver - Sturm College of Law. After her graduation, she completed a postgraduate program in EU Law and she started practicing as a Trainee Lawyer at an International Law Firm, focusing on International Business Law and ADR

PANEL 3

EU CROSS-BORDER ENFORCEMENT INSTRUMENTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE



Alberto de Franceschi

Full Professor of Private Law, Chair of Consumer and Market Law, Digital Law and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Ferrara (Italy), where he served as a Vice Rector. He also served as Ambassador’s Chair of Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Law School of the University of California Los Angeles; Visiting Professor of EU Digital Law at the Guanghua Law School of the Zhejiang University, Hangzhou. Delegate of Italy at G7 Digital & Technology, HCCH, OECD, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT. Editor in Chief of EuCML – Journal of European Consumer and Market Law. Ordinary Member of the Academia Europaea and of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, where he serves as the Dean of Class V (Social Sciences, Law and Economics). His research focuses on Italian and European Law of Obligations and Contracts, devoting specific attention to the issues of the Digital Economy and of Environmental Sustainability.



André Janssen

Professor at Radboud Universiteit. He is an expert in private law, especially in the field of contract and tort law, European private law, international sales law, comparative law, legal tech and artificial intelligence and law. He is the chief-editor of the European Review of Private Law (ERPL), editorial board member of the International Arbitration Law Review (IALR), board member of the German-Dutch Lawyers Association and a council member of the European Law Institute. He has published more than 170 scientific contributions and delivered more than 250 speeches worldwide. He is regularly involved in arbitrations and provides expert opinions nationally and internationally.



Rimantas Simaitis

Associate Professor and a Senior Researcher at the Vilnius University Law Faculty. His scientific interests focus on e-justice, technology law, digitalization, civil procedure, ADR and ODR (mediation, arbitration, negotiation, other), civil law, multidisciplinary research. He is a Partner, a Head of Dispute Resolution Department, an Attorney-at-Law, a Mediator and an Arbitrator at the law firm Cobalt (Lithuania).



Milda Markevičiūtė

Researcher at Vilnius University Faculty of Law. Fields of interest and scientific research: alternative dispute resolution, international civil procedure, online dispute resolution, e-justice, administrative penal law. Milda Markevičiūtė is also an assistant attorney-at-law and managing associate at a Baltic law firm COBALT focusing on dispute resolution, litigation and arbitration.



Eva Manolova

External Associate at the Procedural Law Unit, with a strong research focus on private international law, digitalisation of justice and civil procedural law. She is actively engaged in researching key legal topics in collective publications and collaborates with leading research institutions on European-funded projects as a research associate. Additionally, Eva is part of organising the Unit's annual symposia, which focus on current issues that threaten the rule of law, access to justice and the functioning of courts in the digital space. She holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus campus, earning a double-awarded degree recognised in both England and Wales, and Cyprus.



Gioia Arnone

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Palermo, focusing on cryptocurrencies and their use within criminal organizations, she holds a double PhD in Entrepreneurship & Innovation (University of Naples "Parthenope") and in Law (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), with a thesis on crowdfunding, blockchain, cryptocurrencies, and decentralized justice.

Her academic background combines a Master's Degree in Law and a qualification as a lawyer in Italy with a Master's Degree in Management, bridging legal and economic expertise. Her research is distinguished by an interdisciplinary approach at the intersection of law, technology, and digital finance.



Emilia Richiello

Joint Ph.D. candidate in Law, Science and Technology at the University of Bologna and Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Her research interests range from Blockchain legal application to the IoT financial application perspectives. Emilia's current research focuses on Decentralised Finance regulation and consumer protection in the European contest. She graduated with honors at Roma Tre University with a thesis entitled "Blockchain, Smart Contracts and Algorithmic Trading techniques" after a visiting period at Harvard Law School Library. Emilia was a Trainee at the Italian Supreme Court of Justice and she passed the Italian Bar in November 2022.

PANEL 4

DIGITAL ENFORCEMENT IN PRACTICE: NATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL PERSPECTIVES



Jachin Van Doninck

Associate Professor at the faculty of law & criminology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He is in charge of the courses on civil procedure (3rd bachelor), private international law (1st master) and ADR (master course), co-director of the DIKE research group and president of the private law section of the Department of Private & Economic Law (PREC). He combines his academic work with a limited position as lawyer at the Brussels bar. His academic work focuses on the systemic influence of major societal trends and developments in the field of adjudication both at the national and international level.



Noémi Suri

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, Hungary. She completed her legal studies at the same institution, graduating summa cum laude in 2011, followed by a PhD in Law and Political Sciences in 2018, also summa cum laude, with research focusing on inheritance law. She later obtained a Diploma in English Law and Legal Skills from the British Law Centre (University of Cambridge, 2018–2019) and an LL.M. in Economic Law from Pázmány Péter Catholic University (2020–2021). Dr Suri has held various academic positions at the Department of Civil Procedure Law, progressing from trainee and lecturer to assistant professor (2019–2024), and currently serves as Associate Professor. Since 2020, she has also been a researcher at the Ferenc Mádl Institute of Comparative Law. Her main research areas include civil procedure law, European civil procedure law, and insolvency proceedings.



Giuseppe Fiengo

Judge at Naples Tribunal, where he deals with banking contracts and non-contractual liability. He previously served as a judge at Milan Tribunal, where he handled enforcement proceedings. He was also a decentralized trainer at the School for the Judiciary (Court of Appeal of Milan district), with a Gaius delegation for European Union law. During his time at the Court of Milan, he had the opportunity to submit several requests for preliminary rulings to the Court of Justice of the European Union (the most recent were decided by the Grand Chamber on 17 May 2022 – joined cases C-693/19 and C-831/19, SPV Project 1503 s.r.l., Banco di Desio e della Brianza s.p.a.). He is the author of numerous publications and reports on consumer protection and judicial cooperation in civil matters, and he has also participated in projects funded by the European Commission in these same fields.



Magdalena Jankowska-Gilberg

Lawyer working at the European Consumer Centre Germany. She deals with consumer enquiries and complaints, is involved in various projects on European consumer protection and is active in a policy paper group. Before joining ECC-Net, she worked at the University of Regensburg and the Council of Europe. When Magda is not helping consumers, she enjoys spending time in the great outdoors, playing tennis or sightseeing.



Thomas Hoffman

Tenured Associate Professor of Private Law and head of the Research Group Private Law at the Department of Law (TalTech Law School) at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. Thomas' research focuses on comparative private law, here especially in insolvency law, private international law, contracts in digital environments and consumer law. He provided comprehensive research on Estonian, German and international law to various stakeholders within numerous EC tenders. Thomas keeps track with forensic issues by serving as Of Counsel for the law firm bnt Attorneys-in-CEE in Tallinn.

BRIDGE LARGE RESEARCH GROUP
FACULTY OF LAW AND
CRIMINOLOGY



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Susanna Picariello

Marco Giacalone

Jachin Van Doninck

