

Peer reviewed collection of transcripts of all CROLEV research related events: the ‘CROLEV Scientific Collection’

Work Package 6 – Deliverable 3

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1. Introduction

The project

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV) (2022-25) aims to produce outcomes related to both research and impact and teaching and learning. The Centre intends to not only explore the actual state of the rule of law and other European values in one or more Member States of the EU and other neighbouring countries, but to also develop high-level research on the deterioration of the rule of law/values across the EU and elsewhere, the specific threats the rule of law/values face (or might face), the possible ways in which rule of law and value protections can be secured, and the existing mechanisms the EU has to guard against rule of law backsliding. CRoLEV's objectives will be achieved through the employment of a series of different methodologies and approaches, suitable to achieve valuable and durable outputs with an impact on civil society and policy-makers, and to deliver excellent teaching and research. The Centre will enable the promotion of specialised teaching and research in EU law and related fields and the wide dissemination of research results with a specific and timely focus accessible to the wider community.

It is envisaged that the project will have a long-term effect on EU studies leaning and research in Cyprus and abroad. To achieve those ambitious goals, CRoLEV has delivered a series of Research Events either directly from the CRoLEV team or with the contribution of other scholars, legal professionals, experts in the field, judges and other stakeholders in Europe and beyond. **The current peer reviewed collection of transcripts of the most significant CRoLEV research related events entitled 'CRoLEV Scientific Collection' is addressed to students, ECRs, researchers, specialists, professional bodies and networks, specialised civil society organisations and wider stakeholder audience. The Scientific Collection is publicly available on CRoLEV's website and accessible to all and aims at disseminating and communicating research data and findings used and presented during a number of public research-related events (a selection applies).**

2. CRoLEV Research Events 2022

2.1. CRoLEV Research Day 2022

On 8 December 2022, the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus held a Research Day. This event, organised within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence CRoLEV successfully gathered advanced students, legal professionals, experts in the field of the rule of law and various stakeholders. The event took place in hybrid format, with several participants on campus and other online via MS Teams. The event was divided into two parts. The first part, entitled 'Research Themed Workshop' featured a lecture by Dr Henrik Andersen, a Senior Visiting fellow in Rule of Law and Sustainable Justice at the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus and member of the CRoLEV Scientific Advisory Board.

Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Head of the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Director delivered the Welcome Address. In her address, Prof. Laulhé Shaelou introduced CRoLEV, explaining how the Centre is structured, and identifying the various broad objectives it seeks to realise. Following the opening remarks, Dr Andreas Marcou, Lecturer in EU Law and Theory at UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Chief Researcher and Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki, Lecturer in EU Business Law and CRoLEV Senior Researcher provided a presentation of the Beyond-the-state-of-the-art Analysis, one of the project's Deliverables available [here](#). In their presentation, they identified the specific research objectives CRoLEV seeks to achieve, provided a brief analysis of the literature review conducted on the theoretical discussion on the rule of law and how that is related to European values, and outlined the various existing frameworks and empirical indices that CRoLEV's empirical research will seek to complement. Following these remarks from the CRoLEV team, Dr Henrik Andersen delivered his lecture.

Dr Andersen explored the connections between climate justice, the rule of law and fundamental rights. Turning to the ways in which courts have dealt with questions on climate justice, he explored how the 'substantive due process' argument, developed by American courts, has also been used (with different framing) in European courts as well. This, he argued, shows a willingness on the part of the courts to connect climate justice with principles of the rule of law, which is, in turn, inherently linked with ideas of individual freedom.

The second part of the day, entitled 'CRoLEV Interdisciplinary Research Workshop', primarily targeted advanced, graduate, and post-graduate students. The presentations delivered in the second part of the workshop were designed to support and assist the research journey of post-graduate students, and to propose various tips on issues of methodology.

Kicking off the second part of the day, Dr Andrea Ferguson, Head of the Graduate Research School, UCLan, UK, discussed the 'Future of Doctoral Education'. During her presentation, she discussed the current status of doctoral research at UCLan, the School's strategy, while touching on challenges for doctoral education in the future. Next, Dr Josephina Antoniou, Associate Professor in Computing, Research Degree Tutor, School of Sciences, and Ethics Committee Chair, UCLan Cyprus, analysed 'Research Ethics Considerations'. Her presentation identified various ethical considerations and dilemmas researchers often face. The following contribution by Dr Lida Pitsillidou, Lecturer in Company Law and Corporate Governance and Research Degree Tutor of the School of Law, on 'Thesis Writing' proposed a series of valuable tips and strategies that are useful for all graduate students.

The remaining contributions tackled questions more directly relevant to research methodologies. The fourth presentation of the workshop was delivered by Dr Ioanna Stylianou, Assistant Professor in Statistics and Economics, Deputy Head and Research Degree Tutor, School of Business and Management, UCLan Cyprus. It was entitled 'Analysing and presenting data' and discussed the various ways in which empirical research may be carried out, identified appropriate empirical methodologies, and explaining ways in which data collected could be analysed and presented. Concluding the Research Day, Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki and Dr Andreas Marcou presented the 'CRoLEV Methodologies' that are used by

the CRoLEV team to realise the project's research objectives. CRoLEV employs a series of methodologies, favouring inter-disciplinary, socio-legal research that view EU law within the broader social context.

The CRoLEV Research Day successfully brought together various students, undergraduate and post-graduate, as well as legal professionals and researchers. Dr Andersen's lecture raised a series of innovative questions regarding the interplay of the rule of law, climate justice, and the role of the courts. The latter part of the day offered invaluable insight to graduate students on various issues related to research.

The slide features a dark blue background with white text. In the top left corner is the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) logo, which includes a shield with a sunburst and the year 1928, followed by the text 'University of Central Lancashire UCLan Cyprus'. In the top right corner is the CRoLEV logo, which includes a scale of justice and the text 'CRoLEV Centre for the Rule of Law and European Values, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2022-23)'. The main title 'Why Measure the Rule of Law?' is centered in the upper half. Below the title is a bulleted list: '• After measuring the relevant single indicators according to the underlying theoretical framework discussed above, the results will be visualised in a dashboard' and '• Rule of law indicators → veritable technologies of global governance'. A large yellow arrow points downwards from the second bullet point to a third bullet point: '• Open a space for contestation, intervention, and policy debate on what it means to encourage the rule of law in the developing world'. In the bottom left corner is the European Union flag logo with the text 'Co-funded by the European Union'. In the bottom right corner is the email address 'crolev@uclan.ac.cy'.

University of Central Lancashire UCLan Cyprus

CRoLEV
Centre for the Rule of Law and European Values,
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2022-23)

Why Measure the Rule of Law?

- After measuring the relevant single indicators according to the underlying theoretical framework discussed above, the results will be visualised in a dashboard
- Rule of law indicators → veritable technologies of global governance

↓

- Open a space for contestation, intervention, and policy debate on what it means to encourage the rule of law in the developing world

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Why Measure the Rule of Law?

- **Benefits of Indices or composite indicators**

- external measures in debates about evaluating reforms or the performance of the government
- fostering and promoting best practices
- capable of showing the extent of improvements and deteriorations of specific concepts
- objective reflections

Limitations and shortcomings?

Why Measure the Rule of Law?

- **Limitations of Indices or composite indicators?**

- changes in a policy in order to change its score on a scale→ 'justice in numbers'
- measurement methods rely on data that is quickly out of date→ rapid shifts in context, e.g. pandemic, terrorist attack, declaration of war



Rule of Law indices for Cyprus?

- Completely missing from the measurements of indices,
- Specific data/information are lacking for various components, or
- Recent inclusion of Cyprus in measurements

indispensable to widen the pool of data on the country not only substantially but also chronologically.



Data Collection

Hard Data: approximate facts, directly measurable, factual and indisputable

Soft Data: opinion of experts or public → human qualitative observations. 'Subjectivity'?

Thin approach to the rule of law
EUJS: independence of the judiciary
BUT lack of information

Thick approach to the rule of law
Data on connections with
democracy

Expert Opinions
1. Focus Groups
2. Surveys



2.2. CRoLEV Net Launch event 2022

On 2 November 2022, the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus launched the CRoLEV NET. This event organised within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence CRoLEV successfully gathered various stakeholders and experts in the field of the rule of law. The event took place in hybrid format, with several participants on campus and other online via MS

Teams. Students, advanced students, academics, legal professionals, and other civil society stakeholders participated in the event.

Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Head of the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Director delivered the Welcome Address. In her address, Prof. Laulhé Shaelou introduced CRoLEV, explaining how the Centre is structured, and identifying the various broad objectives it seeks to realise. Following the opening remarks, Dr Andreas Marcou, Lecturer of EU Law and Theory at UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Chief Researcher outlined the various specific research objectives that CRoLEV aims to achieve, including a summary of the various methodologies that are to be employed. Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki, Lecturer in EU Business Law and CRoLEV Senior Researcher then provided a comprehensive analysis of the public outreach plan that CRoLEV follows, including a presentation of the project's website, available [here](#). Following these remarks from the CRoLEV team, three guests delivered short presentations on a series of engaging topics touching on various aspects of the rule of law.

Dr Aleksandra Gliszczynska-Grabias, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, joining CRoLEV NET via MS Teams, delivered a talk on the 'Challenges of the rule of law crisis in Poland in the context of respecting human rights protection standards'. Dr Gliszczynska-Grabias's speech highlighted a series of activities that the Polish government has undertaken, and which severely undermine the rule of law and other European values. Discussing government efforts to limit media freedom, attacks against refugees, actions against women rights and the rights of sexual minority, she painted an alarming picture of the deep failures of the rule of law in Poland.

Next, participants watched a video prepared by Dr Yulia Razmetaeva, Head of the Center for Law, Ethics and Digital Technologies at Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (Ukraine) and Visiting researcher at Uppsala University (Sweden). In that video, Dr Razmetaeva, who is also the Project Leader of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence 'European Fundamental Values in Digital Era', delivered a presentation entitled 'AI in the courts: what is wrong with the rule of law?'. In that video, Dr Razmetaeva touched on a variety of issues touching on the rule of law related to the enhanced use of artificial intelligence in judicial proceedings.

The final presentation was delivered by Dr Balázs Fekete who discussed 'The CITIZENS-LAW project: studying the social foundations of Rule of Law'. Dr Fekete, who is a research team member of the project CITIZENS-LAW, provided an overview of that project. One key objective of the project, he explained, would be to study the rule of law beyond legal institutions, turning instead to societal attitudes. Within the CITIZENS-LAW project emphasis will be placed on the attitudes of citizens of three different countries (the Netherlands, Denmark, and Hungary) with regards to the rule of law.

CRoLEV NET successfully brought together various experts and stakeholders on the rule of law and raised a series of innovative questions regarding the role of the rule of law in our everyday lives, the various considerations associated with the use of technology in the court

rooms, and the various threats to the rule of law and other European values across Europe and the world.

Special guests included

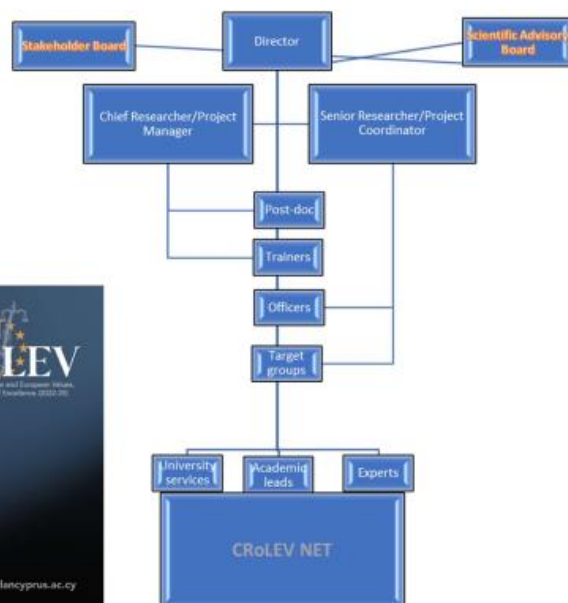
Dr Aleksandra Gliszczynska-Grabias, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences - ‘Challenges of the rule of law crisis in Poland in the context of respecting human rights protection standards’

Dr Natalie Alkiviadou, Senior Research Fellow, Justitia, Denmark - ‘Presentation of database on decisions of the European Court of Human Rights on Hate Speech’

Dr Yulia Razmetaeva, Head of the Center for Law, Ethics and Digital Technologies at Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (Ukraine) and Visiting researcher at Uppsala University (Sweden), Project Leader of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence ‘European Fundamental Values in Digital Era’ - ‘AI in the courts: what is wrong with the rule of law?’

Dr. Balázs Fekete, CITIZENS-LAW research team member and Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE, Budapest) - ‘The CITIZENS-LAW project: studying the social foundations of Rule of Law’

CRoLEV Governance



Challenges of the rule of law crisis in Poland in the context of respecting human rights protection standards

Dr. Aleksandra Gliszczyńska-Grabias

Assistant Professor at the Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences



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“(…) it is far too simplistic to talk about the EU’s ‘rule of law crisis’; it is more fitting to call it a ‘hybrid regime crisis’. What has been happening in the EU’s hybrid regimes is more of a twin crisis, namely, a slow decline of both democracy and the rule of law. In the last decade, two EU Member States have degraded from liberal democracies to hybrid regimes (Hungary and Poland).”

Jakab, András: Three misconceptions about the EU rule of law crisis, *VerfBlog*, 2022/10/17



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July 14th, 2021:

The Court of Justice of the EU suspended the activities of the Disciplinary Chamber and cancelled all decisions taken by it in cases of lifting judicial immunity. The order for interim measures was issued in the case *EC v. Poland* regarding the Muzzle Act (C-204/21 R).

Julia Przyłębska's Constitutional Tribunal ruled that Poland does not need to respect the decisions of the CJEU imposing interim measures regarding the judicial system and the procedure before Polish courts. The Constitutional Tribunal held that the provisions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in this respect are inconsistent with the Polish Constitution. The Tribunal's bench included a stand-in judge – Justyn Piskorski, by which it breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

Free Court's Initiative Report "2365 days of Lawlessness", June 2022



Women's rights

- 22nd October, 2020: "Constitutional Tribunal" announced that provisions of the law allowing pregnancies to be terminated **when there is a high probability of a severe or irreversible foetal impairment or when the foetus is diagnosed with an incurable and life-threatening disease** — are unconstitutional. It referred, among other provisions, to **Art. 38** of the Polish Constitution: **The Republic of Poland shall ensure the legal protection of the life of every human being.**



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Human rights law language

- Hate speech
- Refugees
- LGBTQ+ "propaganda"
- Media freedom: SLAPPs

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May 7th, 2021 ECtHR:

Xero Flor v. Poland: Polish Constitutional Tribunal, in its current composition, cannot be seen as a tribunal established by law. Julia Przyłębska declared this judgment as „non-existent”.

October 6th, 2022 ECtHR:

Juszczyzsyn v. Poland: The Court found, in line with its reasoning in *Reczkowicz v. Poland*, in particular, that the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court was not an “independent and impartial tribunal established by law”.



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3. CRoLEV Research Events 2023

3.1. CRoLEV Summer School and 2nd Interdisciplinary workshop 2023

The School of Law of the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV), co-funded by the European Union and running at UCLan Cyprus for the period 2022-2025, held their second annual Interdisciplinary Research Workshop and the first CRoLEV Summer School on the 15th and 16th of June 2023. Both events took place in hybrid format, with some participating in person on the UCLan Cyprus campus, and others joining online via MS Teams or Zoom. The Research Workshop and the CRoLEV Summer School, this year focusing on ‘Threats to Democratic Values’, promoted excellence in teaching and research and fostered dialogue among the participants to the Summer School.

Several Research Workshops took place during the morning of the 15th of June and primarily targeted advanced, graduate, and post-graduate students. Professor Vasil Gluchman from the University of Presov, Slovakia, delivered the first presentation, focusing on ‘Education for Democracy: The Experience in the Visegrad Four’. In his lecture, Prof. Gluchman highlighted the salient role democratic education plays in forming a democratic citizenry capable of protecting itself against threats. Focusing on the experience of the Visegrad Four, Prof. Gluchman explained how the historical, social, and political realities of those four countries have resulted in an insufficient system of democratic education. That was followed by a workshop from our CRoLEV post-doc, Dr Alex M. Uibariu, who focused on ‘Autocratisation and State Crimes Against Democracy in Contemporary Politics’. During her workshop, Dr Uibariu analysed the concept of a state crime against democracy, identifying several state actions or inactions that can fall under that definition. Both presentations provoked significant discussion on the ways in which democracies are threatened by state (and non-state) actions, and possible tools that can be used to protect against such threats, with civic education emerging as a core requirement.

The CRoLEV Summer School, which took place in the afternoon of the 15th of June and on the 16th of June (following self-reading time under the framework of CRoLEV), brought together legal researchers and practitioners who enjoyed a series of diverse sessions on many interesting topics. First, Dr Klearchos Kyriakides, Senior Visiting Fellow in English law and legal practice at the School of Law, UCLan Cyprus delivered a presentation on ‘The threats to democratic values stemming from those who claim to be upholding them in the UK and the EU’. During this session, Dr Kyriakides stressed the multiple shortcomings of the UK (and of other European countries) in their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, touching on significant issues such as the lack of legal scrutiny of government decisions, the extent of democratic accountability, and the reliance of the government on medical experts, side-lining legal advice. This presentation sparked a lively discussion revolving around the state of democratic government during times of emergency. Ms Branka van der Linden, Secretary of the Board,

Cyprus Integrity Forum with whom the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV enjoy a strong partnership, then delivered a Lecture entitled ‘Elephant in the Room – Addressing Legal profession contribution to Sustainable Development through Integrity and Transparency, core values of Cyprus Integrity Forum’. During her lecture, Ms van der Linden, discussed the ideas of integrity and transparency, both at the institutional and the personal level, exploring questions of individual ethics, and personal prejudice and bias.


The next day (16th of June) featured a public lecture by Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Head of Law School and Professor of EU Law and Reform, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Director, who focused on ‘The Rule of Law and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development’. Following an analysis of the approach to the rule of law adopted by international bodies (such as the UN and the Council of Europe), Prof. Laulhé Shaelou explored the ways in which the rule of law combines with the sustainable development goals. Stressing the need to focus on sustainable rule of law and democracy, Prof. Laulhé Shaelou insisted that upholding the rule of law and democracy and achieving the sustainable development goals are intrinsically connected.

After that, Dr Andreas Marcou, Lecturer in EU Law and Theory and CRoLEV Project Manager discussed ‘Democracy, liberalism, and free speech’. During the last workshop, Dr Marcou focused on controversial questions of free speech and censorship, exploring how different models of liberalism and democracy might propose different approaches to them. Mr Petros Florides, Independent Non-Executive Chairman, NetU and Mr Ioannis Ioannides, Non-Executive Director, NetU then moderated a fascinating roundtable discussion on ‘Digital opportunities and threats to Democratic values’ powered by NetU with whom the School of Law and CRoLEV enjoy a strong partnership.


The roundtable discussion shed light on the various opportunities to improve democratic government technological improvements offer, ranging from making government more efficient, to enabling widespread political participation. At the same time, dangers associated with such technological improvements were highlighted, such as misinformation through social media, or the alienation of the technologically illiterate.

The Summer School concluded with a session powered by the Larnaca Bar Association with whom the School of Law and CRoLEV enjoy a strong and lasting partnership, on ‘Gender Pay Gap in the Legal Profession in Cyprus’, moderated by Prof Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou and Mr Christakis Mouscos, President, Larnaca Bar Association. Upon the invitation of the Cyprus Bar Association and with the impetus of all those involved, including Mr. Christakis Mouscos in his capacity as President of the Larnaca Bar Association, CRoLEV was invited to produce new and targeted qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, in the framework of the first ever ‘Women in Law’ Conference in Cyprus, organised by the Cyprus Bar Association and partners, including UCLan Cyprus as education partner, in Larnaca, on the 5th April 2023. The presentation of the CRoLEV findings at the Conference [can be viewed here](#). CRoLEV would like to thank all those involved in the design, organisation, delivery, dissemination and

actual attendance across multiple organisations and institutions. During the session at the Summer School, Dr Uibariu delved into the results of the study conducted by CRoLEV on the Gender Pay Gap in the Legal Profession in Cyprus, which you can view [here](#). In the course of the discussion, the Gender Pay Gap was portrayed as a symptom of a larger picture of gender inequality in Cyprus. Alleviating this greater societal problem requires systematic and robust effort. A [blog post](#) and an article in the [magazine of the Cyprus Bar Association \(issue 5\)](#) were produced by CRoLEV members as a result.



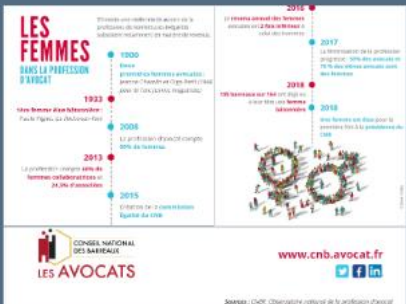
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Set of recommendations for Cyprus: How to close the gender pay gap?

- Visibly set out the role of women in the legal profession and the manifestations/ consequences of the gender pay gap. Combat stereotypes and enhance cultural shifts.
- Provide for (self-)regulated professional standards incorporating and building on basic legislation and reporting requirements.
- Provide recommendations to law firms on flexible working conditions and meaning/enhancement of equal pay and equal/equivalent work.
- Facilitate access of female lawyers to more senior positions within law firms and the Bar Associations.




LES FEMMES
DANS LA PROFESSION
D'AVOCAT

1923: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
1925: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
1930: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
1935: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
1940: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
1945: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
1950: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
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2010: 100 femmes avocates à Paris
2015: 100 femmes avocates à Paris



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3.2. Guest Lecture Series, With the Hon. Mr. Justice Costas Clerides (Ret'd) 2023

In March 2023, the School of Law and its Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values CRoLEV invited The Hon. Mr. Justice Costas Clerides (Ret'd), a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Cyprus who served as Attorney-General of the Republic of Cyprus from 2013 until 2020 and is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Central Lancashire in 2020, to deliver two Guest Lectures at the UCLan Cyprus campus. CRoLEV is also honoured to count The Hon. Mr. Justice Costas Clerides (Ret'd) among the esteemed members of [its Scientific Advisory Board](#).

These Guest Lectures were open to law students, alumni, academics, staff and friends of the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus, of CRoLEV as well as other Schools at University. These Guest Lectures also formed integral part of specific LLB and/or LLM modules at UCLan Cyprus for which attendance was compulsory or highly recommended.

Guest Lecture No.1, Wednesday 1 March 23

TITLE: “The proceedings before the Arbitration Tribunal of ICSID between Marfin Investment Group Holdings S.A and others v. The Republic of Cyprus.”

Brief description

The subject matter of the Lecture is the well-known case of the recourse of MARFIN Investment Group S.A., the late A. Vgenopoulos and a number of other Greek investors in the ex Laiki Bank (Cyprus Popular Bank) against the Republic of Cyprus before the Arbitration Tribunal of the International Centre for Settling Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Paris. Through the arbitration proceedings, the claimants were claiming against the Republic the payment of damages in a sum exceeding 1 billion Euros for loss or damage caused to their investment which was allegedly caused to them through acts or omissions by organs or authorities of the Republic in taking over the affairs of the Bank. Details are given as to the legal status of ICSID and of the Tribunal, as to the handling of the defence in the arbitration proceedings by the Law Office of the Republic, the main position and the legal basis of the arguments put forward by the parties, the proceedings for provisional measures, the hearing of the main recourse and the final award of the Tribunal which unanimously found in favour of Cyprus and dismissed all the claimants’ claims with costs. [The full transcript of the Guest Lecture can be found here.](#)

Guest Lecture No. 2, Wednesday 15 March 23

TITLE: “The historic Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice regarding the legal consequences of the separation of Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius by the United Kingdom in 1965”

Brief description

The case which forms the subject matter of this Lecture arose as a result of a dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom regarding the separation of Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in the 1960’s, prior to Mauritius becoming an independent state. The importance of this case, however, lies on the fact that the highest judicial organ on the planet, the International Court of Justice of the United Nations which is based in the Hague, in examining the legal consequences of the separation, dealt with very important issues relating to the fundamental and inalienable right of the peoples of all countries to self – determination. In those proceedings, Cyprus was not directly involved as a party, but had taken active part in it as an interested party. The reasons for that stand appear in the proceedings as well as the answer to the question as to why Cyprus had a special interest in those proceedings. [The full transcript of the Guest Lecture can be found here.](#)

3.3. UACES Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland 2023

Between the 3rd and 6th of September 2023, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV), co-funded by the European Union and running at UCLan Cyprus for the period 2022-2025, participated in the 53rd Annual UACES Conference held in Belfast Northern Ireland. CRoLEV, in collaboration with the project CITIZENS-LAW, successfully organised and ran a themed track entitled ‘The Rule of Law under scrutiny: Interdisciplinary, Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives’. Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of EU Law and Reform and Head, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Director, and Dr Andreas Marcou, Lecturer in EU Law and Theory and CRoLEV Project Manager, represented the CRoLEV Team, while Professor Marc Hertogh, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, University of Groningen represented the CITIZENS-LAW project. The themed track, which examined the broad question of the rule of law from various perspectives comprised of three panels: EU Governance and European Values, Sociological Approaches to the Rule of Law, and Democracy and other values.

The first panel featured three presentations. Dr Cristina Saenz Perez discussed the ‘Principle of Non-regression as Safeguard of the Rule of Law’, Dr Ian Cooper focused on ‘The New Rule of Law Conditionality Regime for the EU Budget: Protecting EU Funds or EU values’, and Dr Evans Fanoulis raised the question of ‘From Governmentality to Inter-governmentality in European Integration’. All three presentations were geared towards examining questions related to the rule of law as those arise at the European level. In particular, they examined how the rule of law breakdown in multiple European countries has prompted extensive discussions on the safeguarding of the rule of law at various levels. Yet the papers presented and the audience discussion that followed revealed serious concern about both the legal means through which the rule of law can be safeguarded, but also about how political processes at the EU level may be sufficient (or even capable) of truly securing European values.

The second panel presented an interdisciplinary discussion on how the rule of law can be measured and understood from empirical perspectives. In this panel, Prof. Laulhé Shaelou and Prof. Hertogh presented CRoLEV and CITIZENS-LAW respectively. Prof. Shaelou in a presentation entitled ‘The Societal Reality of the Rule of Law and Democratic Values in Europe-a proposed methodology’ offered a glimpse into the motivation behind CRoLEV, while also situating the empirical research undertaken at the Centre within the multiple crises that have plagued the European Union during the last few years. In his presentation ‘The EU Rule of Law Crisis from an Empirical Perspective: Exploring the Contours of a Social Science That Does Not Yet Exist’, Prof. Hertogh presented the methodology CITIZENS-LAW is following in attempting to identify and measure the social foundations of the rule of law through a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The panel concluded with a presentation from Ms Eva Grosfeld and Prof. Armin Cuyvers, who discussed ‘Citizens’ Values and Public Legitimacy of the EU: Combining Social Psychology with EU Law to Understand and Improve EU Legitimacy’. Detailing the findings of their empirical work, they emphasised how

important the rule of law, and other moral values, are to EU citizens, while also examining the extent to which EU law reflects those values. The presentations provoked an inspired discussion on the use of empirical methodologies in the study and the measurement of the rule of law, including debates on the theoretical backgrounds that enable empirical research.

The final panel focusing on Democracy and its protection across the EU and beyond included three presentations. The first presentation looked at the question of whether ‘Revolving Doors Endanger or Strengthen the Rule of Law in the EU’. Presenting the findings of their empirical work, Dr Verena Rošic Feguš and Dr Emilia Korkea-aho touched on fascinating questions about the movement of individuals between the public and the private sphere and the way in which such movement may or may not undermine the rule of law. Dr Eli Gateva, in her presentation entitled ‘Democracy Promotion and Safeguarding After Accession: Does the EU Matter?’ raised intriguing questions about whether the Union can effectively monitor and safeguard democratic developments in its Member States by focusing on the experience of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism in Bulgaria and Romania. The panel’s last presentation was delivered by Dr Andreas Marcou who explored ‘The Struggle for European Values in the EU: Populism, the Rule of Law, and Democracy’. By discussing the ways in which populist actors undermine the rule of law, the presentation attempted to draw intrinsic connections between the rule of law and democracy. Following the presentations, a lively audience discussion explored further key themes raised in the presentations such as the link between various European values, the attempts of the EU to enhance democracy, and the various potential threats to European values that obtain today.

The themed track co-organised by CRoLEV and CITIZENS-LAW brought together a series of inspired academics examining questions of the rule of law and European values from various perspectives. As the rule of law and other European values are not merely legal principles but have also emerged as key social components of life within the EU, it is imperative that investigation of those values and principles should be open to interdisciplinary perspectives. The different panels feature multiple presentations by both junior and senior researchers that attempted to further knowledge in the area by combining theoretical approaches to empirical, by collecting data through various methodologies, and by looking at questions of the rule of law and European values in a spherical manner.

3.4. Citizen Festival 2023

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV) at the School of Law of the University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus), organised the Citizen Festival for the youth, students, researchers, academics, professionals, NGOs, representatives of the civil society and all citizens based on the island of Cyprus and beyond, interested in **active citizenship initiatives, particularly in view of the European Parliament’s elections 2024 (CRoLEV was later appointed by the European Parliament as a Communication partner for the 2024 EP elections).**

The CRoLEV Citizen Festival unfolded during the whole day with selected activities on **Participatory Democracy and a Civil Society Forum promoting and visualising the Rule of Law and European Values in various forms including the following:**

On November 17th, 2023, CRoLEV and its partners organised the Citizen Festival. The conference was hosted at the UCLan Cyprus campus in Pyla, Larnaca and individual events could be joined by remote guests virtually. For the various activities, partners and programme, you may see [here](#) and [here](#).

Participatory Democracy and Active Citizenship Forum

The day started with a plenary session and discussion on “Democracy in action in view of the European Elections of June 2024” led by Mr. Andreas Kettis, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Cyprus accompanied by [a video from MEP Loucas Fourlas, Rapporteur of the European Year of Skills 2023](#). During this session, Mr. Kettis highlighted the importance of voting in the upcoming European Elections on 9 June 2024 and had a discussion with the students as to how the EU could reach out to young people and encourage them to vote. Moreover, the students and their tutors had the opportunity to ask questions as well as express their concerns, if any, as to the impact of the elections on the Republic of Cyprus. The session was moderated by Prof. Loukas Glyptis, Head of School of Business and Management at UCLan Cyprus.

Workshop on the Rule of Law, Democracy, Corruption, and Media Pluralism

As part of the conference, a Workshop on the Rule of Law, Democracy, Corruption, and Media Pluralism took place from 11:00-13:00. The workshop consisted of a plenary session and discussion with Dr. Alexandra M. Uibariu, CRoLEV post-doctoral Fellow, Mr. Eric Shukiouroglu, Vice President of OPEK and Mr. Kyriakos Pieridis, AEJ (Association of European Journalists) Media Freedom Representative, followed by youth proposals to policymakers and the media. The session was moderated by Dr. Maria Tatsiou, Lecturer in Financial and Corporate Law, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus.

On behalf of CRoLEV, Dr. Alexandra M. Uibariu drew participants’ attention to the enduring decay of both new and established democracies and the rule of law, caused by a combination of an increase in authoritarianism; a re-emergence of far-right populism; the deepening of social and economic inequalities; the occurrence of economic crises, refugee crises, natural emergencies, and wars, all of which have witnessed the extensive use of emergency powers far beyond the remits of the respective crises and which have oftentimes resulted in violations of human, civil, and political rights. Unsurprisingly, the aforementioned have caused many to be dissatisfied with democracy and their elected and appointed representatives, and – as a result – to be increasingly disengaged in democratic processes ranging from democratic dialogue, to protest, and to voting. Such disengagement has allowed appointed and elected representatives

alike to pursue private and elite interests during their professional duties and to become increasingly unaccountable and unresponsive to the needs of the citizenry. In our fight to reverse this democratic decay, a free and independent media is crucial. Meaningful democracy requires that citizens have opportunities to inform and formulate their preferences as a precondition to political action. Without free access to independent information, citizens cannot make educated decisions about how they are ruled, or hold educated opinions about governmental abuses of power. Mr. Kyriakos Pieridis and Mr. Eric Shukiouroglu both shared their valuable experiences concerning present threats to the media, the efforts to enable transparency, and the fight against corruption.

The audience proposed that in order to enable transparency, better protect the media, and overall encourage greater democratisation, one should seek to make civic education an integral part of the curriculum, whereby there is a focus on critical thinking, civil action, and knowledge of human, civic and political rights – all of which should enable individuals to become responsible citizens, who are committed to democratic participation, and are able to keep their elected and appointed representatives accountable when they surpass the legal limits of their power or otherwise abuse public office. Additionally, it was suggested that the laws on the establishment of media institutions should be reviewed as a means of enabling better transparency and lessening the extent to which partisan interests can be promoted via the use of far-reaching channels.

Finally, the EU-funded ‘Together EU platform’ was introduced. Together EU seeks to form a virtual community of individuals who are politically active, and who wish to share their knowledge, learn new skills, and encourage others to vote in the forthcoming 2024 EU Parliament elections.

Civil Society Forum on Active Citizenship

As part of the conference, a Civil Society Forum on Active Citizenship, moderated by Prof. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform, Head and Director of CRoLEV, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and ICLAIM Founding Director, brought together civil society actors and academic research organisations. Presentations were delivered on behalf of CRoLEV, the Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre (CPDC) for the EMBRACE Project, the Human Rights Platform (HRP), ICLAIM for the InPeace project, and Civic Space, on:

1. “The visualisation of the Rule of Law and European Values. Some aspects” by Dr. Alexandra Uibariu, CRoLEV post-doctoral Fellow;
2. “Working for peace and dialogue” by Dr. Meltem Onurkan-Samani, Founding President of CPDC
- “Violations related to the Cyprus Problem”, by Mr Hüseyin SILMAN, EMBRACE Project Manager;

1. “The EU, the Turkish Cypriots and Human Rights” by Ms Derya Beyatli, HRP Director;
2. “InPeace: Preliminary research findings about the bicommunal Technical Committees in Cyprus” by Dr Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, ICLAIM Resident Expert and Ms Fezile Osum (HRP); and
3. “Presentation of Grow Civic Programme” by Mr Çağrı Çerkez, Civic Space.

Focus Group on Active Citizenship

Later in the afternoon, a focus group on Active Citizenship took place open to representatives of the civil society and citizens locally based. The session was facilitated by Prof. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, accredited mediator (English, Greek, French); Dr. Maria Tatsiou, accredited mediator (English, Greek); Ms. Evrim Peker (English, French); Mr Çağrı Çerkez (English, Turkish); Cemil Bayhanli (English, Turkish). Residents of the Pyla village, both permanent as well as students living in the halls of accommodation, participated in the focus group to identify what needs they have and what challenges they face in their everyday lives with the objective of identifying how Civil Society Organisations and UCLan Cyprus could assist in finding ways to resolve these issues. Some of the concerns included active ageing, environmental issues, speeding, and animal welfare. The participants of this focus group were invited to subsequent events hosted by UCLan Cyprus in the area of participatory democracy to discern how ideas could be implemented in practice and what stakeholders should be involved in their materialisation (more feedback is offered in the CRoLEV CSO training reports and Deliverable).

Yoga session, courtesy of the High Commission of India, Nicosia (Cyprus)

Following the end of the focus group session, participants to the Citizen Festival were invited to take part in a yoga session opened by Her Excellency, Ms. Madhumita Hazarika Bhagat, High Commissioner, and delivered by Dr. Kahad Bhagat. The session was dedicated to our former colleague Fotini who had been instrumental in bringing yoga to our campus as a way of connecting people. Moreover, the session proved to be a huge success as the participants of the Citizen Festival had the opportunity to relax and reflect in a very safe and relaxed environment. After deliberations, Dr. Bhagat also delivered some further yoga sessions during December open again to all participants of the Festival, including students and staff, as well as community members.

Finally, the day was concluded with a reception at the Lobby accompanied by Saxophone by LLB student Mr Victor Ehis Ohuimumwen.

4. CRoLEV Research Events 2024

4.1. CRoLEV interdisciplinary research workshops 2024

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values at the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus organised a series of two online interdisciplinary research workshops with Dr. Zuzana Vikarská, Visiting Fellow in European Constitutional Law at CRoLEV. These interdisciplinary research workshops were open to all advanced students, researchers, alumni, academics, professionals and friends of CRoLEV across Europe and other parts of the world, interested in European public law, European law and governance, as well as the rule of law and other democratic values in Europe.

Interdisciplinary Research Workshops No.1 – Monday 8th April 2024

TITLE: “Preliminary References to the European Court of Justice as a Threat to National Judicial Hierarchy?”

Interdisciplinary Research Workshops No.2 – Monday 22nd April 2024

TITLE: “Advocating for a Minimalist Reading of the National Identity Clause in Article 4(2) TEU”

4.2. CRoLEV Summer School 2024

The School of Law of the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV), co-funded by the European Union and running at UCLan Cyprus for the period 2022-2025, held their second annual CRoLEV Summer School on the 15th and 16th of July 2024. The Summer School took place in hybrid format, with some participating in person on the UCLan Cyprus campus, and others joining online via MS Teams. The CRoLEV Summer School, this year focusing on ‘Rule of Law and Democratic Values in Times of Crisis’, promoted excellence in teaching and research and fostered dialogue among the participants to the Summer School.

The CRoLEV Summer School brought together advanced students, legal researchers, and legal professionals who enjoyed a series of diverse sessions on many interesting topics. Following a Welcome Address by Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform and Head of School of Law, UCLan Cyprus, and CRoLEV Director, the first workshop was delivered by Dr Andreas Marcou, Lecturer in Legal Theory, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Project Manager. Dr Marcou discussed states of exception, focusing on their effect on the rule of law and democracy. Drawing from various examples, including from the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop proposed ways in which the risks posed by states of exception may be mediated. The second workshop delivered by CRoLEV post-doc, Dr Alex M. Uibariu, addressed ‘Attacks on the Civil Society: Repercussions for the Rule of Law and Democracy’. During her workshop, Dr Uibariu discussed the type of threats that civil society

has faced, particularly in times of emergency, and focused on the impact of those attacks on democracy overall.

The last workshop for the day, taking place after the lunch break, was delivered by Prof. Sivanandan Sivakumar, Senior Professor at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and President of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA). Prof. Sivakumar, assisted by his research team, delivered a presentation on ‘Media in a Democracy and the Rule of Law’, emphasising the fundamental role free and diverse media play in a functioning democracy. In addition, the workshop raised a variety of challenges facing media in democratic states, including diversity of media ownership, transparency in media ownership, and the challenges posed by AI and other technological advancements.

The first day of the Summer School was concluded by the presentation of the CRoLEV Dashboard. The interactive dashboard, available [here](#), is the platform on which the data collected during the CRoLEV project is presented. During the Summer School, Prof. Laulhé Shaelou and Dr Uibariu delivered the first presentation of some initial data collected through the CRoLEV Surveys (available [here](#)). The Dashboard will be updated throughout the duration of the project and beyond.

The second day of the Summer School began with a presentation by Prof. Vasil Gluchman from the University of Presov, Slovakia, who discussed ‘Democracy and (il)liberalism in Hungary and Slovakia: Past and present’. Drawing from the Hungarian experience with illiberalism, Prof. Gluchman drew analogies to the Slovakian case. In particular, he emphasised how the actions by governments in both Hungary and Slovakia represent salient threats to the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and other values of the EU.

The public lecture was delivered by Prof. Laulhé Shaelou and was entitled ‘Upholding the Rule of Law in turbulent times: a European judiciary perspective’. In discussing the legal framework of the EU and the Council of Europe, the lecture drew attention to the various dangers and threats to the rule of law associated with judicial independence and impartiality across European judicial systems. The conclusions of the lecture brought to the forefront the precarity of the rule of law across Europe today, as addressed by the Court of Justice of the European Union and by the European Court of Human Rights.

Two workshops followed in the afternoon. The first one was delivered by Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki, Lecturer in EU Public Law, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and focused on ‘Post-crises citizenship: financial crisis, populism, and Covid-19’. The workshop discussed the concept of citizenship, raising concerns about the way in which the ‘membership’ component of citizenship has become in recent years the subject of populist rhetoric. The final workshop of the Summer School was delivered by Dr Klearchos Kyriakides, Senior Visiting Fellow, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus who discussed ‘The rule of law, the Brexit saga and Boris Johnson’s first three months as Prime Minister’. This final presentation offered a robust analysis of the UK Constitution and identified the various ways in which the behaviour of the

Prime Minister Boris Johnson displayed contempt for the rule of law. The presentations throughout the two days sparked lively debates about the state of democracy and the rule of law in our societies.

Many thanks go to the CRoLEV Team for their hard work in organising the Summer School. We would also like to thank our guest contributors and all participants for their commitment and their valuable participation throughout the various sessions and activities of those events. Materials from the Summer School are available [here](#).

4.3. CRoLEV Essay Competition

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV) (2022-25) at the School of Law of the University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus) organised a Short Essay Competition in March 2024 on the topic: *“Critically discuss the state of the Rule of Law and Democratic Values in the EU in light of widespread disinformation and propaganda”* with submission deadline the 14th of June 2024.

The First Prize was awarded to Ms. Ksenia Fedoseeva, Law Student at UCLan Cyprus for her essay with title *‘Reinforcing the Rule of Law by Combating Disinformation: An Unreliable Path to Democratic Stability in the EU’* which can be found [here](#). The review committee decided that the essay followed a clear and comprehensive structure assessing the potential contribution of disinformation on the backsliding of the rule of law. Also, it was very well-researched, and it set out very interesting and original arguments, including rejecting the necessity of excessively focusing on preventing disinformation as a way to tackle the backsliding of the rule of law due to the inadequate link between them.

On the 6th of August, the First Prize was awarded in person to the First Winner at the University premises, by CRoLEV’s Director Prof. Stephanie Laulhe-Shaelou and CRoLEV’s Senior Researcher Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki.

Extracts of the Blog is reproduced below:

Essential but Unworkable? A Look at Transitional Justice Mechanisms via the Cyprus Example

By Ksenia Fedoseeva, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus

“...The Republic of Cyprus (‘RoC’) correspondingly set up the Custodianship regime to deal with Turkish Cypriot properties in its controlled territory. Theoretically, there existed a substantial difference between the two approaches, with Turkey claiming ownership of all properties of displaced persons, while the RoC suggested they still belonged to Turkish Cypriots. In practice, however, actually using the property in any way was not possible in either case. The perpetuated management of the properties performed by the Custodian became problematic once the crossings between the two sides of the island were opened. The ECtHR eventually did not find the Custodianship regime to be in violation in *Kazali and others v*

[Cyprus](#), but the RoC recognised the issue, exacerbated by its refusal to compensate for loss of use of the property, and thus amended Law 139/1991 by creating certain conditions pursuant to which property access would be granted. Nevertheless, the strict conditions of the improved regime excluded the vast majority of Turkish Cypriot applicants and changed little in practice.

Another issue arising from the different approaches occurred when the applicants chose the remedy of exchanging a property they occupy on one side, for the property they were displaced from. This consequently created circumstances where two people can legitimately claim to be owners of the same property at the same time on the basis of how each side viewed this transfer.

These arrangements appeared to undermine the idea of transitional justice remedies in states where issues remain unresolved, but some hope for such mechanisms still exists in other ways. One such example in Cyprus is the bicommunally-constituted [CMP](#), as both sides recognised that dealing with missing people was a salient issue that could not await a resolution of the conflict. The Committee, tasked with recovering and identifying remains of those gone missing between 1963, when violence first began, up until the period of the invasion in 1974, was generally successful. It uncovered remains for half of those missing and gave them to the waiting families, thus relieving them psychologically and allowing the proper exercise of religious funeral and burial traditions. However, the delay in the commencement of the Committee's operation meant many crucial witnesses as well as relatives passed away, thus valuable information was lost or many died without fully understanding the circumstances of their loved one's death. Additionally, merely factual truth was often anticlimactic as it revealed technical aspects of the killings but not its culprits or surrounding circumstances, and the language used by officials was rarely as peace-inducing as would have been appropriate for a bicommunal organisation to prevent the continuation of animosity between the two communities. Moreover, a lack of transparency or updates left relatives feeling helpless and did not promote the CMP well enough to encourage more information to be brought in. Hence, despite the CMP being an overall more beneficial arrangement than the one for property, the frozen conflict severely inhibits further development, leaving much doubt around whether truly effective transitional justice remedies are possible without resolving a conflict..."

[Read the full blog here](#)

4.4. CRoLEV Social Dialogue week and Dashboard Launch 2024

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV) at the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus, was pleased to organise the Social Dialogue Week event and Dashboard Launch 2024.

On November 8th, CRoLEV and its partners organised the CRoLEV Social Dialogue Week on the 'Visualisation of the Rule of Law and European Values' with PRIO Cyprus and Civic Space and the support of the Indian High Commission in Nicosia and the Embassy of the Republic of

Poland in Nicosia. The event was hosted at the UCLan Cyprus campus in Pyla, Larnaca and individual sessions could be joined by remote guests virtually. See [here](#) and [here](#).

European values in European integration and diversity

The day started with a plenary session and discussion on “European values in European integration and diversity” powered by the Peace Research Institute Oslo in Cyprus (PRIO Centre Cyprus) under the CERV project ‘RENEU’. During this session, His Excellency, H.E. Mr. Marek Szczepanowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Cyprus along with speakers including members of the of the RENEU consortium, namely, Vladimír Bartovic (President of EUROPEUM), Dr. Harry Tzimitras (Director of PRIO Centre Cyprus) and Dr. Juha Jokela (Finnish Institute of International Affairs) engaged in a debate entitled “**(Re)uniting the East and West: Reflections on the impact of 2004 enlargement (REWEU)**”.

Furthermore, students who had prepared posters on the topic of ‘European values in European integration and diversity – Reflection on the impact of 2004 enlargement’ were called to present their ideas and were rewarded for their active participation. The session was moderated by Prof. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of European law and Reform, Head of School of Law and CRoLEV Director at UCLan Cyprus.

Reading session with “Furry Reading Club”

As part of the day, a reading session in collaboration with “Furry Reading Club” took place at 12:00-13:00. The workshop consisted of discussion of the well-known novella *The Metamorphosis* by Franz. The students, staff members, and guests had the opportunity to exchange views on the novella, political, and literature movements of the time and their impact on subsequent works. The session was facilitated by Dr. Andria Michael, Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature, UCLan Cyprus, and facilitated by Órla, furry friend, and Stephanos Severis, Cyprus School of Dog Training.

Social Dialogue Forum

As part of the Event, two sessions moderated by Prof. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform, Head and Director of CRoLEV, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and ICLAIM Founding Director, brought together civil society actors and academic research organisations.

During the first session, members of the EU-funded Civic Space building capacity in Cyprus across the divide, delivered a workshop targeted at students on the topic of ‘Youth Mainstreaming’ exploring the participation of students in decision-making and shaping the future.

The workshop was followed by presentations delivered on behalf of CRoLEV, the Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre (CPDC), and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Law, Alternative and Innovative Methods (ICLAIM).

1. CROLEV: Exhibition of visuals on surveys (corruption, transparency, media, democracy).
1. Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre (CPDC): ‘Embrace: rights for reconciliation’ project.
2. ICLAIM: PREPARED mobile application on research ethics and integrity in times of crisis.

Yoga session, courtesy of the High Commission of India in Nicosia (Cyprus)

At the end of the day, participants to the Social Dialogue Week were invited to take part in a yoga session powered by the Indian High Commission in Nicosia. The session proved to be a huge success as the participants of the Social Dialogue week had the opportunity to relax, reflect and further engage in a very safe and relaxed environment.

The CRoLEV Team would like to thank all contributors and participants for their very active engagement and support.

4.5. Human Rights Day 2024 – Deputy Minister of European Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus delivering keynote speech at UCLan Cyprus

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, celebrated every year on 10th December, the Deputy Minister of European Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Ms. Marilena Raouna, delivered a keynote speech on 2nd December 2024 at 18:00 at UCLan Cyprus. The event, which was open to the public, was organised by the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus and its EU-funded Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV).

The keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, Deputy Head of the School of Law and Associate Professor in Transitional Justice and Human Rights. Prof. Stephanie Laulhe Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform and Head of the School of Law, as well as Director of CRoLEV, acted as the discussant during the panel. The Deputy Minister’s insights on Cyprus’ role in protecting human rights within the international and European community were particularly topical, in light of the Republic of Cyprus’ forthcoming membership in the UN Human Rights Council and the EU Presidency. The event was followed by a reception. See [here](#).

4.6. CRoLEV Social Dialogue Week Guest Lectures

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV) at the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus, was pleased to organise the Guest Lectures by Prof. Mark Dawson and Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger, taking place in the framework of the CRoLEV Social Dialogue Week.

Guest lecture 1

‘Beyond the internal market: the changing substance of EU law’,

Prof. Mark Dawson Professor of European law and governance, Hertie School and the Co-Director of the Jacques Delors Centre

Guest Lecture 2

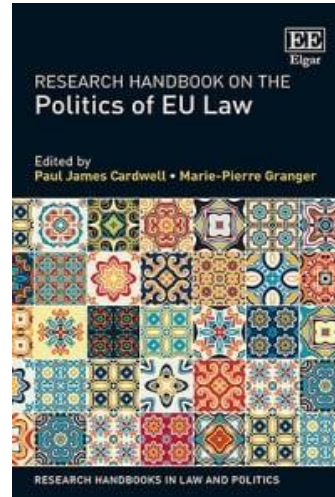
‘European and European values also for businesses? New developments on business and human rights in Europe’,

Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger, Executive director & Chair for Public Law and Public International Law Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) Ruhr University Bochum (RUB)



The Politics v the Policy of EU Law

- Strong focus in EU law on relation between EU law and politics
- But what about relation between EU law and policy?
- We see a huge shift. i.e. new 'dominant' policy areas. But the legal order was built to deliver the original policy (internal market)
- Is it still therefore fit for purpose? How does policy change affect legal change?



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5. CRoLEV Research Events 2025

5.1. CRoLEV Winter school 2025

The School of Law of the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV), co-funded by the European Union and running at UCLan Cyprus for the period 2022-2025, held their third annual CRoLEV School for researchers, CSO representatives and advanced students, this time in the form of a Winter School on the 7th and 8th of February 2025 (pre-readings were given to participants). The Winter School took place in person on the UCLan Cyprus campus. The CRoLEV Winter School, this year focusing on themes related to conflicts and post-conflict environments, was supported by Civic Space and promoted excellence in teaching and research and fostered dialogue among the participants.

The CRoLEV Winter School brought together advanced students, researchers in various fields, representatives of the civil society and legal and other professionals who enjoyed a series of diverse sessions on many interesting topics. Following a Welcome Address by Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Head of Law School and Professor of EU Law and Reform, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and CRoLEV Director, the first workshop was delivered by Prof. James Ker-Lindsay who discussed the root causes of conflicts. Discussing examples from around the

world, Prof. Ker-Lindsay provided valuable insight on the various causes of conflicts. The second workshop delivered by Professor Eiki Berg, Professor of International Relations Theory, University of Tartu, Estonia addressed ‘What Trajectories Conflicts Might Take’. The workshop proposed ways to taxonomise the different types of conflicts and inspired fascinating discussions with the participants.

The second day of the Winter School commenced with a workshop by Prof. Ker-Lindsay on ‘Success and Failure of Containing Secessionists’. The thought-provoking discussion attempted to identify different ways in which states have sought to contain secessionist movements. That workshop dovetailed with the next workshop, delivered by Prof. Berg, which dealt with ‘Success and Failure of Engaging Secessionists’. In that discussion, Prof. Berg analysed the various methods through which states have engaged with secessionist movements, often seeking to avoid acting in ways that would signal their recognition of the secessionist claims. After the lunch break, Dr Athanasia Hadjigeorgiou, Associate Professor in Transitional Justice and Human Rights and Deputy Head of the School of Law delivered a workshop on ‘Transitional Justice Paving Road to the Peace’. The Winter School then concluded with a Roundtable Discussion on ‘Conflict-driven Challenges for Future EU Enlargement’ (powered by Civic Space). The discussants, Prof. Ker-Lindsay, Prof. Berg, and Dr Hadjigeorgiou engaged the audience in a fascinating exchange about the challenges for future EU enlargement.



Success and Failure of Engaging Secessionists

Eiki Berg,
University of Tartu

6. Examples of cross-cutting research engagement across the years

6.1. The Gender Pay Gap in the Legal Profession in Cyprus: Report Findings

Upon the invitation of the Cyprus Bar Association and with the impetus of all those involved, including the President of the Larnaca Bar Association, Mr. Christakis Mouscos, CRoLEV produced new and targeted qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, in the framework of the first ever ‘Women in Law’ Conference in Cyprus, organised by the Cyprus Bar Association and partners, including UCLan Cyprus as education partner, in Larnaca, on 5th April 2023. CRoLEV would like to thank all those involved in the design, organisation, delivery, dissemination and actual attendance across multiple organisations and institutions. The usual disclaimer applies as the present CRoLEV survey and report, as well as the whole EU co-funded project, constitute educational materials in an educational setting. Accordingly, and in line with ethics, integrity and professional conduct standards, what each person has provided verbally, electronically, or otherwise must not be accepted or interpreted as either legal advice or any other form of advice and does not constitute any form of official endorsement.

[See the full report here.](#)

6.2. Women in Law Conference 2024

The ‘[Women in Law](#)’ Conference 2024 organised by the Cyprus Bar Association (CBA) was held on the 24th of April 2024 at Radisson Blu with great success.

UCLan Cyprus supported the ‘Women in Law’ Conference for the second year in a row, which is now established as a benchmark event, models itself on similar international forums. It seeks to emphasise on the barriers to equal opportunities and foster a constructive dialogue, from which well-considered recommendations will be formulated for the benefit of state and private institutions and agencies.

Esteemed speakers from both domestic and international locales engaged in a series of presentations on themes pertinent to the empowerment of women, the enhancement of skills, and the reinforcement of their roles in leadership and decision-making capacities. Additionally, the discussions addressed the unique challenges faced by women in the modern job market, with a particular focus on the legal profession. The conference greatly facilitated networking opportunities between legal professionals and their counterparts in various other sectors.

Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki, Lecturer in EU Public Law at UCLan Cyprus and Senior Researcher at CRoLEV participated in the **5th Session of the Conference on ‘Wages and Transparency’** alongside the Commissioner for Gender Equality, Ms. Josie Christodoulou and Mr Christakis Mouscos, Representative of Larnaca in the CBA Council. The session was moderated by Mr Nicos Panayiotou, President of the CBA Labour Law Committee.

The Session started with Ms. Josie Christodoulou who presented the Commissioner for Gender Equality as an institution and stressed the office's importance in promoting policies to fill the current gender pay gap. Dr Katerina Kalaitzaki then continued with a presentation on the EU legal framework and recent developments in the area of Wages and Transparency. Emphasis was made on the effectiveness of Directive 2006/54 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation as well as on the newly adopted Directive 2023/970 to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms. The session closed with Mr Mouskos' contribution on the 'Best practices for gender pay equity in the workplace' including within the legal field. During the discussion afterwards, references were made to the research conducted by CRoLEV on [The Gender Pay Gap in the Legal Profession in Cyprus](#).

[Click here to watch](#) the full recording of the Women in Law Conference 2024 on Youtube.

6.3. CRoLEV at the 2023 Cyprus Forum on Transparency

During September 2023, CRoLEV Director Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Head of the School of Law at the University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus) and Founding Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Law, Alternative and Innovative Methods (ICLAIM) invited Dr Orla Drummond, Senior Research Analyst and Human Rights Lawyer at Trilateral Research, for a Fireside Discussion on measuring the Rule of Law and values in Cyprus and Europe at the Cyprus Forum. The event provided all three organisations, partners on the Horizon Europe PREPARED project, with an opportunity to discuss research conducted by the EU co-funded Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values CRoLEV and disseminate the findings of the legal and human rights analysis conducted for PREPARED, including at grass root level which is a task that ICLAIM undertakes.

The [Cyprus Forum](#) is an independent and not-for-profit conference which brings together local and foreign political leaders, academia, civic society prominent figures from the public and private sector, and the media. Essentially, it provides an inclusive platform to initiate dialogue, facilitate the exchange of ideas and identify new and creative solutions to improve and promote sustainable and socially responsible policy in Cyprus and the wider Eastern Mediterranean region. It was held in late September 2023 in Nicosia and hosted a staggering 200 speakers under six key themes. The event was attended by many high-profile organisations and individuals, including representatives from States, NATO, the United Nations and the European Commission as well as national and international NGOs. As the 2023 edition of the Cyprus Forum was dedicated to Transparency, it was very important for CRoLEV and the PREPARED project to be present and take advantage of the Cyprus Forum as a platform to disseminate and amplify their work on rule of law and human rights in times of global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the theme of Justice and Strong Institutions, and with a particular focus on the Rule of Law and Transparency, the speakers provided an overview of both projects, emphasising the need for robust research ethics and integrity in times of global crises. Key issues discussed were the need to sustain Rule of Law principles in times of crises, to enable the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, and in particular, to ensure the protection of marginalised communities from disproportionate and negative impacts.

Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou started by introducing the Fireside Discussion on why it is important to measure the state of the rule of law and European values locally, nationally but also internationally, particularly in times of crisis, and how various research, ethics and integrity frameworks such as the ones under development at CRoLEV and at PREPARED can talk to each other and mutually enhance results and impact. She referred to the prime objective of CRoLEV which is to provide insights on the state of the Rule of Law and other European values and principles in troubled times, in Cyprus and beyond. She explained that out of the CRoLEV methodology, the project team came up with several pillars based on a thick conceptualisation of the rule of law principle. The data collection will be conducted in accordance with these pillars. The CRoLEV empirical research focuses on measuring aspects of (i) civic engagement (citizen empowerment and the protection/promotion of civic space in Cyprus/Europe); (ii) democratic governance (anti-corruption measures and transparency); (iii) the functionality of justice in Cyprus/Europe (administration of justice and access to justice); (iv) democratic values in Cyprus/Europe (media freedom and public responses to crises).¹ [You can view the full blog post here on the Cyprus Forum 2023 here.](#)

6.4. Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou appointed as Visiting Professor at the Centre for International Affairs of the Law Faculty of the University of Ruhr in Bochum, Germany, under the prestigious German Academic Exchange Service DAAD Scheme for Visiting Professors

As of 1st April 2024, and until 30th September 2024, Professor Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform, Head of the School of Law and Director of the EU-funded Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Affairs at UCLan Cyprus, has taken up the position of DAAD Visiting Professor at the [Centre for International Affairs, Law Faculty of the University of Ruhr in Bochum](#), holding the Guest Chair of “Common Law in a Global Context”, for which her academic credentials, experience and high level of qualifications in relevant spheres were deemed of international standing and ideal for the appointment. This [appointment](#) was made upon invitation extended to her by Professor Pierre Thielbörger, Executive Director of the [Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict](#) (IFHV) and of the Centre for International Affairs, as well as Chair for Public Law and Public International Law at the Law Faculty of the University of Bochum, and following a thorough review process under the DAAD State Scheme. Upon completion of the review

¹ S. Laulhé Shaelou et al, ‘CRoLEV Scoping Paper’ (CRoLEV, February 2023) https://crolev.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CRoLEV_Scoping-Paper_D4.2.pdf

process, Professor Laulhé Shaelou warmly accepted the appointment, with the support of both home and host institutions.

During her appointment, Professor Laulhé Shaelou was based simultaneously at the [IFHV and at the Centre for International Affairs, Law Faculty of the University of Ruhr in Bochum](#). The Chair involved contribution to the teaching and learning of law students at the Law Faculty and the Institutes, including to their certified programmes in common law, as well as participation to academic and high-profile events of the University and the Law Faculty and sharing of knowledge and best practice of mutual benefit to all involved, at different paths of their careers with a focus on early career researchers and research scholars.

Courses under the certified programmes included the in-person delivery and assessment of three academic courses on Cyprus, namely ‘Cyprus, a small island state in the European and international legal order’, ‘English language and common law in the mixed legal systems: Cyprus’, and ‘The Reception of European and International Law in mixed legal Systems: Cyprus’. Other outputs of the Visiting Professorship include public lectures, research seminars and webinars [on research topics of mutual interest](#) including across institutions, joint publications, networking with peers and mentoring of research scholars and early career researchers in academic and research skills, civil society outreach as well as grant capture. Professor Laulhé Shaelou also initiated an Erasmus mobility agreement between the two institutions, with the support of the Centre for International Affairs at the Law Faculty of the University of Bochum, as well as the Erasmus Office at UCLan Cyprus.

The position was compensated in accordance with a W2-professorship within the German system which covered all costs for travel, accommodation and stipend while on the appointment.

Professor Laulhé Shaelou would like to extend her most sincere thanks to all persons involved at both institutions in making this appointment a successful and fruitful experience, which she would recommend to all. She would also like to extend many special thanks to Professor Pierre Thielbörger, Mr. Robin Pass, Mrs. Kirsti Nele Tywonek-Brinckmann as well as the teams at both Institutes for their endless efforts prior to, during and post-mobility. As some of the outputs of the Visiting Professorship are ongoing and extend beyond the duration of the appointment, the success of this academic grant is secured sustainably, in line with expectations of the funders and all involved in its making.

6.5. CRoLEV engagement with the celebrations for the 20 years of EU enlargement to Cyprus and another 9 member states on 1st May 2004

20 years have passed since Cyprus joined the European family and CRoLEV has undertaken a series of different activities commemorating the anniversary. Follow the links below to see more details for those activities.

CRoLEV Director. Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou was invited to participate in a webinar organised by CEPS, within the framework of the EU-funded [REUNIR project](#).

Professor of European Law and Reform and Head of School, School of Law, UCLan, Cyprus
Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou and Adjunct Professor, University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Dr Phoebus Athanassiou co-authored a paper on Cyprus's EU membership, twenty years on:
A Statement of Motives and an Assessment of Benefits.

Following the paper, you can click here to [read an interview](#) and [listen to a podcast](#) on the topic.
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