Call for Cases:

Advancing a Law and Political Economy Approach to Strategic Litigation

Call for Applications for a Starting Grant of €10,000

14 – 15 November 2024, Erasmus University Rotterdam

In May 2023, the Law and Political Economy (LPE) in Europe Network hosted a workshop that brought legal practitioners, civil society organisations (CSOs), and academics who are advancing strategic litigation initiatives together to **reflect on how LPE research on the 'constitutive' role of law in the economy might be relevant for litigation claims**.[1] It was established that an LPE approach can help to **a)** identify and mobilise legal rules within the deeper structures of the institutional system (e.g., enabling rules or rules of permission) to ground novel legal actions arising out of existing bodies of law (e.g. property law, contract law) in order to challenge the powers of corporate and financial actors, **b)** re-shape the professional consensus on the scope of potential legal actions by mobilising the indeterminacy of legal concepts to create new hooks for litigation (e.g., 'property rights'), **c)** mobilise public opinion and build narratives that re-politicise legal frameworks and disturb 'settled' understandings of the law in order to create the conditions for favourable 'purposive' judicial interpretation that seeks to interpret law in line with contemporary values and purposes.

LPE in Europe now invites submissions for **a second workshop** (to be held at Erasmus University Rotterdam on 14-15th November 2024) that builds on these findings to **illustrate how LPE insights can help to advance ongoing and novel litigation claims**.

[1] See 'The Constitutive Function of Law in the Economy: A Primer'.

We invite legal teams and civil society organisations (CSOs) who are currently working on developing new lawsuits**,** or who have taken forward litigation claims in the past, to **submit their cases for consideration at the workshop.** Four cases will be selected for inclusion within the workshop, and successful applicants will be able to 'test' their litigation strategies with the workshop participants. The workshop will leverage the expertise of academics working in the field of LPE and legal practitioners and CSOs who have advanced successful litigation claims previously to assess how an LPE approach might enhance or modify the proposed strategy of the applicants, or how it might have led, or lead to, novel approaches to litigation. Case submissions for the workshop should be cases currently under development, or past litigation initiatives that might have further benefited from an LPE approach.

As an immediate outcome of the Workshop, we will **publish a Litigation Brief** that builds on the anonymised case studies to present key insights and co-developed strategies for future litigation initiatives on the LPE in Europe website https://lpeineurope.org/. A second outcome of the workshop will be to **identify the most promising of the litigation initiatives** under development in order **to award the litigation team with a starting grant of €10,000** to further advance their cases in collaboration with researchers from the LPE in Europe Network. Finally, the Workshop will also serve the broader aim of LPE in Europe to serve as a catalyst for the creation of a **European network for knowledge exchange** that can help to advance LPE-informed approaches to strategic litigation in different areas of law going forwards.

Participants are asked to **submit a 2–4-page Case Outline** stipulating the salient facts of the case, the issues at stake and why the case might benefit from an LPE approach for consideration to **lpeineurope@gmail.com below by 30 September 2024.** (If you are interested in the workshop and would like to apply for the starting grant but are unsure about whether your case would benefit from an LPE approach, please get in touch with us via the email address. We are happy to answer your questions and to offer further guidance to potential applicants.)

The workshops are funded by a grant from Partners for a New Economy to develop the Law and Political Economy (LPE) in Europe Research Network, and have been facilitated by Erasmus University Rotterdam and the University of Glasgow.

Organisers: Dr. Anna Chadwick (University of Glasgow), Dr. Ioannis Kampourakis (Erasmus University Rotterdam), and Professor Javier Solana (University of Glasgow)