

CSR LRN Newsletter

October 2015

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Dear members, dear colleagues,

In the middle of the second semester of 2015 we are happy to present the new issue of the CSR LRN newsletter. As usual, it contains information on the latest publications, upcoming events and calls for papers. We would especially like to draw your attention to the PhD course on *Transnational Law: Theories and Research Methods* organized by CSR LRN and INTRALaw research center at Aarhus University.

Contact us with your suggestions, comments and membership application at katpe@law.au.dk

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this issue.

With best wishes,

Daniel and Katerina

Please, circulate this newsletter among your colleagues.

Board members:

Chairman: Karin Buhmann (buhmann@life.ku.dk), secretary, newsletter editor: Katerina Peterkova (katpe@asb.dk), webmaster: Dániel Gergely Szabó (dangs@asb.dk), Lovisa Halje (lovisa.halje@jur.uu.se)

New publications

Contractual Control in the Supply Chain

On Corporate Social Responsibility, Codes of Conduct, Contracts and (Avoiding) Liability

Louise Vytopil

Eleven International Publishing 2015, 342 p.

<http://www.elevenpub.com/law/catalogus/contractual-control-in-the-supply-chain-1>

Abstract:

Disasters such as the Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013 have raised legal questions in respect of the role and responsibility of multinational corporations in respect of their supply chains. This book addresses these questions by focusing on the extent of legal responsibility and liability for corporate social responsibility ("CSR") violations in the supply chains of MNCs in the Netherlands, England and California (United States). It provides an overview of the legal measures a limited number of participating multinationals take in practice, in order to govern their supply chains in terms of CSR. It qualifies these instruments in terms of private law. Moreover, it discusses to what extent multinational corporations can be held liable for CSR violations in their supply chains on a number of legal bases. In identifying the measures that the participating MNCs have taken to govern their supply chain, this research provides valuable insights into those companies that aim to improve the CSR performance in their supply chains and take measures accordingly. Furthermore, it answers the crucial question of what legal impact these measures may have for MNCs, if those measures are not lived up to in practice.

Business and human rights: Understanding the UN Guiding Principles from the perspective of transnational business governance interactions

Karin Buhmann

Transnational Legal Theory Vol. 6 No. 1 (DOI 10.1080/20414005.2015.1073516)

Abstract:

This article analyses the United Nations (UN) Guidelines on Business and Human Rights adopted in 2011 by the UN Human Rights Council from the perspective of transnational business governance interactions (TBGI) analytical framework.¹ The article identifies and discusses dimensions of interaction and components of regulatory governance which characterize the Guiding Principles, focusing in particular on rule formation and implementation. The article notes that the Guiding Principles actively enrolled other actors for the rule-making process, ensuring support in a politically and legally volatile field. It identifies mutual 'piggy-backing' by the Guiding Principles and other TBGI schemes, complementing the Principles' very limited limitation and enforcement modalities and lending support to rule-making and implementation of other schemes. The article concludes that the UN Guiding Principles are unique in several areas of relevance to transnational business governance interaction and indicates the relevance of the TBGI approach to public regulatory transnational business governance initiatives. The analysis of the Guiding Principles as interactional transnational business governance suggests that this form of governance offers prospects for public institutions as a means towards regulating global sustainability concerns.

For a (limited) number of interested readers the article may be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/AIQHasemZhFbiZP4d7eV/full> (first come first serve)

New EU Directive on the Disclosure of Non-Financial Information (CSR)

Dániel Gergely Szabó and Karsten Engsig Sørensen

European Company and Financial Law Review, Volume 12, Issue 3, pp. 307-340

Abstract:

In October 2014, the EU adopted new rules on the disclosure of non-financial information, otherwise known as corporate social responsibility (CSR) information. The new requirements bring the CSR disclosure regulation in the EU in line with the current best practices and constitute a huge step forward compared to the existing rules on the disclosure of non-financial information.

This article analyses the likely impact of the amended Accounting Directive, its scope of application, what should be disclosed and how the new provisions of the Directive should be forced. In doing so, the article compares the new requirements to current best practices and experiences, especially using the experiences with mandatory CSR reporting in Denmark and the experiences with corporate governance reporting in the EU. Based on these experiences, the article also makes predictions of whether the new requirements are likely to increase the quantity of the non-financial information disclosed and the consistency and comparability of the reports.

Events and calls for papers

The 4th Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights

16-18 November 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2015ForumBHR.aspx>

Deadlines: 1 November 2015 (registration)

OVERVIEW:

The United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights is a space for representatives and practitioners from civil society, business, government, international organizations and affected stakeholders to take stock of challenges and discuss ways to move forward on putting into practice the [Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) – a global standard for preventing and addressing adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activity. The Forum was established by the Human Rights Council, and is guided by the United Nations [Working Group on Business and Human Rights. The third annual Forum](#), which was held in Geneva from 1 to 3 December 2014, attracted around 2,000 persons from over 100 countries. Videos of sessions at the 2014 Forum are available at [UN Web TV](#)

Building on the previous events, the fourth annual Forum will focus on:

- Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement
- Discussing effective ways to measure and report on progress to implement the Guiding Principles
- Discussing national action plans to implement the Guiding Principles
- Exploring access to effective remedy
- Examining current practice of States and business enterprises and “unpacking” what implementation of the Guiding Principles means in concrete areas

**PhD course on
Transnational Law: Theories and Research Methods
12-13 January 2016, Aarhus, Denmark**

<http://jurforsk.dk/en/phd-courses/course-calendar/event/artikel/basic-course-transnational-law-theories-and-research-methods/>

Registration deadline: 10 December 2015 (by e-mail to Cita Kristensen, cita@law.au.dk)

OVERVIEW:

Law can be either national (prescribed by national legislators and applied within geographical boundaries of the particular state) or international (agreed upon by states and applied on states). Is that really so? While the distinction between national and international law, based on the Westphalian model, represents the basic model to understand and explain current legal orders, the idea of transnational law has been emerging for decades now. We all have a certain understanding of the term. But what is it really? How well does it fit within our current legal systems? Or is it a new legal system altogether? And how do we conduct research in transnational topics and law, or use it to explain the development of our legal orders?

The **purpose** of this course is to offer PhD students and researchers an overview of transnational law

- as a distinct group of legal theories,
- as a method of research into how law develops and how different legal systems affect each other, and
- as a field of research.

The discussed **theories and topics** will include:

- - distinction between national/transnational/international law, public/private law and hard/soft law;
- - legal pluralism;
- - law beyond states;
- - the concept of legalization in international relations and norms creation;
- - global governance; and
- applicability of transnational law in national courts' rulings.

After participating in the course, the students will be able to:

- critically read and assess literature on transnational law;
- explain and apply transnational law theories in their research projects;
- design a theoretically sound research enquiry in transnational law issues; and
- choose appropriate methods for conducting research in transnational law or choose transnational law as a tool to investigate related topics.

ECTS: 2 ECTS for participation / 3 ECTS for participation with presentation.

Program available [here](#).

**Third Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conference
"Greening the Urban Living"**

9-10 June 2016, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

<http://www.environmentlawconference.com/>

Deadlines: 31 October 2015 (abstracts of maximum 350 words)

OVERVIEW:

The third conference in the series of international interdisciplinary environmental law conferences is inspired by the prestigious title *Ljubljana - The Green Capital of Europe 2016* and thus focuses on the issues of environmental protection in urban areas.

Under the title "**Greening the Urban Living**" the conference will address the following areas:

- local transportation,
- protection and conservation of green areas,
- management of water sources and drinking water,
- management of waste and waste waters,
- quality of air,
- climate change,
- energy efficiency,
- examples of good practices.

Conference Chair: Dr Vasilka Sancin

Conference Coordinator: Maša Kovič Dine

Call for papers:

Abstracts for papers and posters must be no longer than **350 words in length** and should be submitted by **Wednesday, September 30, 2015** through email to <mailto:CCIEL@pf.uni-lj.si>. The submission must include the name and title of the author, position, name and address of the current institution of employment, and a short biography of maximum of ten lines. Please write the abstracts in third person (e.g. "the author believes ..." instead of "I believe ..." and "the article discusses ..." instead of "I will discuss ...").

Successful applicants will be informed by November 30, 2015. The authors selected for paper presentation at the conference will be expected to submit completed papers with maximum 8,000 words in length (including footnotes and bibliography) by Saturday, April 2, 2016. The papers satisfying all publishing requirements will be published in a conference book.

Travel and accommodation costs will have to be carried by the authors of the selected papers and poster presentations themselves. Please address any further enquiries to <mailto:CCIEL@pf.uni-lj.si>.

Upcoming Events

- November 16-18 **The 4th Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights**
Geneva, Switzerland

- January 12-13 **PhD course on Transnational Law: Theories and Research Methods**

- June 9-10 **Third Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conference**
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Upcoming Deadlines

- October 31 **Third Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conference**
Abstracts

- November 1 **The 4th Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights**
Registration

- December 10 **PhD course on Transnational Law: Theories and Research Methods**
Registration

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