
XIX PPJ Course and Conference

**Law, Money, and Human Rights
Public or Private Access to Justice?**

Dubrovnik, Inter-University Centre

26-30 May 2025

Conference outline and call for participation

Justice is slow, but it is also expensive. There is a global consensus that access to justice requires effective and practical means for litigants to overcome financial shortages and afford the services of the civil justice system. However, in light of rising legal service costs and public policies promoting lean budgets and austerity, the means of providing affordable access to justice are being re-examined. Human rights standards place the responsibility for providing access to justice in the hands of the state. However, state legal aid budgets are often the first victims of austerity measures. Can private means and market forces adequately replace or supplement legal aid?

The XIX Public and Private Justice Course and Conference inquires into the current state of affairs in the European and global legal landscapes, discussing the functioning of public systems of access to justice, from legal aid to state-sponsored legal information and assistance systems, including law centers and legal clinics. Additionally, the conference will explore the effectiveness of private forms of access to justice, such as third-party funding, contingency fees, ADR, and other alternative forms (“surrogates”) that aim to provide genuine access to justice. The prospects for reducing costs and increasing access to justice through digitization, online processing, use of AI, and proportionate utilization of expensive services of legal professionals will be discussed as well.

The draft program for the 2025 PPJ Course and Conference will be available soon. We extend a warm invitation to join us for discussions on the aforementioned topics. All who are interested in participating may contact us at ppj.dubrovnik@gmail.com or at the emails of the organizing course directors.

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