



**CALL FOR PAPERS  
(FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS & PRACTITIONERS)**

***Sustaining Access to Justice in Europe:  
Developments and Views in Costs and Funding***

**19 & 20 October 2023 @ Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Law**

In view of the upcoming VICI conference ‘Sustaining Access to Justice in Europe: Developments and Views in Costs and Funding’, which will take place at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (Woudestein Campus) on 19 and 20 October 2023, we would like to invite submissions of abstracts from early career researchers and young practitioners.

***The conference’s theme:*** Access to civil justice is of paramount importance for enforcing citizens’ rights. At the heart access to civil justice lies litigation funding and cost management. Yet, over the past decades, access to justice has been increasingly put under pressure due to retrenching governments, high costs of procedure, and inefficiency of courts and justice systems. Within this context, the funding of litigation in Europe seems to be shifting from public to private. Private actors and innovative business models emerged to provide new solutions to the old problem of financial barriers of access to justice. With the participation of policymakers, practitioners, academics and civil society representatives from all over Europe, the conference seeks to delve deeper into the financial implications of access to justice and the different ways to achieve sustainable civil justice systems in Europe. The topics addressed will include the different methods of financing dispute adjudication, particularly in the context of group litigation (third-party funding, crowdfunding, blockchain technologies), public interest litigation, developments in ADR/ODR, and the new business models of legal professionals.

**Call for Papers:** During the second day of the Conference (20 October) a panel will be organised which is intended to function as a forum for young scholars and young practitioners to present their work in front of a distinguished and broad audience. We particularly invite Early Career Researchers, PhD candidates (at an advanced stage of their PhD), and young practitioners to participate and present their research on the conference’s topics and beyond. While the contributions should fall within the Conference broader topic (costs and funding of civil justice), authors are free to include matters they deem interesting to explore within this context. Proposals can be theoretical, empirical as well as policy oriented. Interdisciplinary approaches and/or a Law & Economics approach are especially encouraged.

**Submissions and deadline:** Please submit an extended abstract (max 1000 words) in English to [dori@law.eur.nl](mailto:dori@law.eur.nl) and [cordina@law.eur.nl](mailto:cordina@law.eur.nl) by **7 July 2023**. Please include your name, affiliation, and a link to your research profile. Submissions will be selected based on quality, originality, interdisciplinarity and the capacity to incite fruitful debates. Accepted submissions will be notified on 30 July 2023 at the latest. The selected participants will be asked to submit their final manuscript in early 2024.

The organisers aim to include the best papers in the conference proceedings, to be published as an edited volume with a reputable publisher. Further details in this regard will be communicated in due time.

Funding for travel and accommodation is available for the selected authors.

The conference venue will be @ Erasmus University Rotterdam - Woudestein Campus. The conference is organised by Erasmus School of Law in the context of the VICI Project '[Affordable Access to Justice](#)'. More information at: <http://www.euciviljustice.eu/>.