

LAPSI

Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information

Call for applications for the 1st LAPSI Award on the best legal analysis of PSI re-use dissertation in the European Union Member States

OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

LAPSI is the European Thematic Network on Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information. LAPSI aims to identify and draft policy recommendations for enhancing Public Sector Information (PSI) re-use (www.lapsi-project.eu).

The LAPSI Thematic Network will present the **1st LAPSI Award** at the 1st Public Conference on 6th of May 2011, in Milan, Bocconi University.

Research activities on PSI re-use are needed as well as the exchange of their outputs. This is why the 1st LAPSI Award will concern the **best dissertation on legal aspects of PSI re-use**. The very purpose of this award is to support any scientific initiative which can be beneficial to PSI re-use policies for moving forward.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Law School, Political Sciences and Economics students enrolled in a European Law School. Only students who are graduating in a 4 or 5 years program; and students who graduated from a four or five-years program within the 12 months preceding the award presentation on May 6 2011 can apply. See also eligibility criteria below.

The names of all applicants will be published on the LAPSI website once the call is closed.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only eligible entries will be evaluated. There are five eligibility criteria:

1. The dissertation has to be written by a 4 or 5 years program graduating student or by a 4 or 5 years program graduated student provided that the graduation occurred on or after the 6th May 2010.
2. The dissertation has to be written for a Law School, a Faculty of Economics or a Faculty of Political Science program.
3. The dissertation can be drafted in any language.
4. The evaluation will be based on the abstract of the dissertation which has to be drafted in English. This abstract has to be written in font Times New Roman, 12; left and right space 2; top and bottom space 1; it must not exceed three pages. Name and contact details of the candidate, title of the dissertation, name of the supervisor, date of public discussion (if any) and indication of the Faculty of enrolment have to be specified in a separate page.
5. The application file has to contain the dissertation and the abstract in English.

Information must be provided whether or not the dissertation has been submitted to other awards and whether the said submission was successfully or not.

DATES AND DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

Call for applications

25th January 2011 - Online submission available.

20th March 2011 - Close of call (16:00 hrs CET)

20th April 2011 - Notification of results/invitation of Finalists to the Public Conference

6th May 2011 - Award Ceremony

1st LAPSI Public Conference

5th and 6th May 2011 - Milan, Bocconi University

Post-conference activities

Please note that all the submitted material will be made available on the LAPSI website and authors will be considered for involvement in LAPSI as interested parties.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All eligible applications will be assessed exclusively on the basis of the information provided by the applicant(s) according to the two evaluation criteria below. Scores are weighted according to their relevance. The total maximum score that can be achieved is 10.

1. Form (2 points)

Is my abstract appropriately revised or does it contain typing mistakes, gross grammar or syntax mistakes? Is it adequately justified? Is it respecting the formal requirements as indicated in the eligibility criteria n.4?

2. Substance (8 points)

Is the dissertation taking into account all the commentators positions? Is it describing them clearly? How can this be referred in the abstract?

Are the dissertation arguments clear and original? Do they take into due account empirical evidence?

Is there any solution suggested? Is it reasonably defended? Are alternative options considered? How are they defended or contradicted?

SELECTION PROCESS

A **panel of experts** will evaluate the applications in order to select 3 finalists.

Experts will be drawn from across Europe from a variety of specific legal backgrounds to ensure the widest possible coverage in terms of specialist knowledge and geographical coverage.

To ensure the highest standards and complete impartiality, following a first eligibility screening each application will be evaluated by a variety of independent experts throughout three different and subsequent phases:

- **Phase 1:** Experts will work separately in an initial phase of the evaluation process where all the submissions are pre-assessed. A minimum quality threshold is established at this phase. Only submissions scoring above this threshold will pass on to the second phase.
- **Phase 2:** Experts agree on a preliminary ranking which will include the top 3 dissertations (the so-called short list of Finalists). Once the short list of Finalists has been established, all applicants will receive an **electronic notification** of the outcome of phase 1 and 2 of the evaluation process. **The list of Finalists will be published on www.lapsi-project.eu**

HOW TO APPLY?

You can file your application for the 1st LAPSI Award using the **submission form** on the LAPSI website www.lapsi-project.eu

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applications should be submitted in English. All sections of the submission form have to be filled in for your submission to be eligible.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please ensure that you print and keep a hard copy of the electronic confirmation of your submission.

Please save an electronic copy of your submission.

If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, please contact projectmanager@lapsi-project.eu for clarification, as your submission may not have been processed.

Disclaimer: By submitting the dissertation and the related English abstract you agree to make the abstract available on a publicly accessible database under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>). Should you wish to opt for another Creative Commons license, you are required to specify it in the application form.

HELPDESK

If you have any further queries, please contact projectmanager@lapsi-project.eu