

Two closing webinars of EmpRiSe

Online webinars on June 28 & 29th. 2021

Right to silence and related rights in pre-trial suspects' interrogations in the EU. Legal and empirical study and promoting best practice.

These webinars are organised by the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University together with partners School of Law and Governance of Dublin City University, Faculty of Law Antwerp University, Faculty of Law KU Leuven and Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience of Maastricht University.

These events bring together academics, policy-makers and practitioners to discuss issues around the protection of the right to silence in police interrogations from an interdisciplinary perspective and investigate possibilities for an EU action.

Participation is free upon registration

More information can be found here:
<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/events/two-closing-webinars-emprise>

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Co-funded by the Justice Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union.

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Programme

EmpRiSe

Monday 28 June 2021, 14:00-17:00h.

First Webinar:

Silence is not empty: it is full of answers. Findings from comparative socio-legal research on the meaning and implications of the right to silence in police interrogations.

What is the meaning of the right to silence at police interrogations in the four jurisdictions? To what extent is it protected in their laws and day-to-day practices of judges, prosecutors, police and defence lawyers? What are the consequences of exercising the right to silence at the investigative stage of the proceedings? What is the relationship, if any, between the right to silence and other procedural rights, such as the right to information or legal assistance? In this webinar, researchers from the four jurisdictions will present the findings from socio-legal research, which sought to address these and other questions relevant to the use and implications of the right to remain silent in practice.

Tuesday 29 June 2021, 15:00-17:00h.

Second Webinar:

Towards an evidence-based approach to the right to silence in criminal proceedings: debunking myths and taking action.

The right to silence in criminal proceedings is one of the most politically debated procedural rights. Its very existence is often brought into question, for instance, in respect of suspects of terrorism or organised crime. The legal and political discourse on the right to silence is dominated by myths, such as that "only the guilty remain silent" or that the "right to silence prevents effective investigations." The right to silence and other procedural rights of suspects are threatened by the drive towards efficiency in criminal legal systems. The increasing sensitivity of criminal justice systems to the interests of ensuring public safety and the concern of delivering 'the truth' to the victims also puts the right to silence under risk. In this webinar, academics, policy-makers and practitioners will reflect on these and other obstacles to the effective protection of the right to silence in criminal proceedings. They will also critically reflect on the various ways of action that are available on the European and domestic levels to improve the quality of discourse around the right to silence and its effectuation in practice.

