



Social Justice and EU law

MCEL master thesis project 2023-2024

The **MCEL master thesis project 'Social Justice and EU law'** brings together **highly motivated students** and **expert staff members** of the Maastricht Centre for European Law (MCEL).

The interaction of the process of European integration with the social sphere has been crucial since the very origins of the European project. Amidst the inherent tensions that more than 60 years of European integration have not yet entirely solved, the question remains as to what role has the EU to play in relation to social justice and whether the EU itself can be 'social'. The idea of social justice relates to redistribution and solidarity, to the protection of vulnerable individuals and communities and to the struggles and tensions that societal and political changes imply.

Social Justice and EU law is therefore not a monolithic notion. It can be declined in several ways across various areas of EU law such as in EU citizenship and migration; Economic and Monetary Union; EU environmental law, EU disability law, EU equality law etc.

For example, topics could cover, but not limited to:

- Cohesion and NextGenerationEU;
- EU citizenship and transnational solidarity;
- Topical issues of EU social / labour law such as platform workers, minimum wages, addressing the gender pay gap, role of equality bodies, work-life balance;
- Social justice in climate change
- Social rights in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

We will launch this research theme at the [MCEL Opening event](#) on **Friday 15th September** with stellar speakers: T. Capeta (Advocate General at the CJEU), S. Garben (Permanent Professor at the College of Europe) and M. Simm (Head of Unit at the Council Legal Service)

Are you eager to write about Social Europe? Then apply for the MCEL master thesis project!

Your benefits:

You will write your own thesis but be part of an **inspiring research community** and work closely together with other fellow students as well as **MCEL members**. You will meet and get the opportunity to discuss with MCEL's experts and access additional seminars helping you develop your methodology. You will also become an MCEL student member and be welcome at MCEL's monthly research seminars. In addition to the master thesis ECTS, you will get a **certificate** that will enrich your CV.

Application:

You can apply to participate in this project by submitting your **application**, which must consist of:

- A document of maximum 750 words to illustrate your motivation for participating in the MCEL master thesis project, your proposed topic and/or research question, and a potential supervisor for your thesis;
- A short CV;
- Your grade lists (bachelor/ master, in case you already did a master).

Applications must be submitted before **20 October 2023** to: mcel@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Please use the subject 'MCEL thesis project' for your email.

For further information, please contact pauline.melin@maastrichtuniversity.nl