

### Call for Papers

#### *Economic & Financial Integration through the Regulatory Framework: Steering Legal Aspects*

The Institute of Law (IoL) at Birzeit University is pleased to announce a competition for research papers on the theme of ***“European Economic & Financial Integration through the Regulatory Framework: Steering Legal Aspects.”*** This competition is funded by a grant provided to the IoL by the Jean Monnet Programme “Lifelong Learning Programme”. This call is available to individual researchers worldwide, who focus primarily on European Union Law and EU Institutions. The IoL financial contribution will cover flight tickets (economy), accommodation and daily expenses.

The IoL was established in 1993, with a mission to contribute to the evolution of legal structures and the rule of law in Palestine. The IoL has, among others, established interdisciplinary research programmes under the “law and society, law and economy and legislative review disciplines”. For more details, please refer to the IoL’s website at <http://lawcenter.birzeit.edu/iol/en/index.php>.

### Context

In the world of globalized economy, the issue of integration is crucial. One significant tool in the economic integration is a robust legal and regulatory framework. The activities of this project would clarify this tool from its various aspects in an analytical manner.

The European experience in the field of the legal framework of economic integration seems impressive and might constitute a useful model in terms of initiating regional integration. Such integration in the case of Palestine is vital and of interest to the policy-makers in the region. Currently, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Jordan are both about to discuss the ability to join the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf. In addition, the PA has held joint trade agreements with Jordan and Egypt, granting preferential treatment to certain Palestinian products, and unilateral custom-free entry of Palestinian products is allowed into Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, and Morocco. The PA also enjoys several trade agreements with some countries e.g., USA, Canada, EFTA States, Russia and EU. It is also crucial, in the eve of the so called “Arab Spring”, to address the impact of the ongoing change on the regional integration opportunities.

Since the introduction of the economic and monetary integration between countries with different characteristics and levels of development requires careful groundwork and scrutiny, the proposed project would shed lights on such issues from the cost and benefit scale. In addition, as the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part is still in place, the project would address possible kind of integration or developments between Palestine and the EU. This is also

useful for the EU since the European region is becoming more open to the outside world as trade integration within the euro area becomes stronger. Since economic adjustment processes are enhanced by economic and financial integration and are crucial for the proper functioning of the economies, the outcomes of the project would advise on vital concerns needed for Palestinian and other jurisdictions integration.

### **Objectives**

The major aim of this project is to initiate a serious attention to the EU integration approach in the region in terms of searching for possible ways to benefit from the EU experience. This would serve the current dialogue in some neighbourhood countries about the opportunities and challenges on economic integration. By shedding light on key driving legal issues in the EU model on integration, the mentioned dialogue might achieve some progress. To this effect, the project attempts to have adequate answers to a set of questions e.g., to what extent the Arab League can activate its competent bodies and protocols of Arab integration in light of the political change that the Arab world is witnessing? Can the European experience offer any lessons to push the integration process in the Arab World? What should the PA do in terms of structural and legal reforms to appropriately comply with the integration theory?

To reach reliable and comprehensive outcomes, the research project will cover various stages in the process of European economic integration. After doing so, the work-team, in accordance with analytical and inductive approaches, will advise on possible revisions to the Palestinian legislative agenda in the framework of the minimum integration requirements on the theoretical and policy levels.

The final goal of this project is to establish a serious and responsible debate on the integration theory and to identify the opportunities for legal convergence regionally and their potential impact on the development process.

### **Scope of the Activities**

This project consists of one workshop and a conference. In the workshop (three consecutive days), a diverse selected topics on the subject matter would be addressed (up to 18 topics). It is suggested to debate on the: general policy of economic integration, financial policy objectives, free movement of capital, financial crisis, banking, securities, investment funds, financial services, payment services, financial crime, competition, consumer protection and infringements. In the conference, there will be ten speakers presenting different topics. These topics will be linked to the debatable issues raised in the workshop and should have steering legal impacts on economic and financial integration. Later on, the papers presented would be published in a special publication after giving speakers sufficient time to edit and approve the papers.

### **Expected outcomes**

The outcomes of this project will be a series of working papers and a book. The book would be translated into Arabic and disseminated to the universities and interested persons. The IoL may also pursue the publication of selected papers in a leading journal. The Institute of Law and the Faculty of Law at Birzeit University will seek to build on these outputs in the future. The findings and recommendations would assist the Palestinian scholars, officials and researchers in handling the concluded problematic issues with the concerned bodies.

### **Specific topics**

We welcome unpublished papers which are not under review by any other conference or journal. Topic areas include, but are not limited to:

#### **Economic Integration Issues:**

- The general Policy of Economic Integration
- Institution-building, Confidence-building and Integration Opportunities
- Customs Unions and Free Trade Areas
- Legal Foundations of Economic Integration
- Public Procurement and the EU Competition Rules
- Competition Policies
- Investment Funds: Legal Requirements
- Cross-border Companies Merger

#### **Financial Integration Issues**

- Free Movement of Capital
- Financial Policy Instruments in Developed Market-based Economies
- Banking Regulations: key Issues
- Securities Regulation: Disclosure and Transparency
- Payment Services
- Trade in Financial Services
- Protection of the Economic Interests of Consumers of Financial Services

#### **Market and Transparency: Developmental Policies**

- Safeguarding the Protection of Investors and Capital Markets' Integrity, Efficiency and Transparency
- Transparency Norms, the World Trade System and Free Trade Agreements
- Regulatory Cooperation to Remove Non-tariff Barriers to Trade in Products: Key Challenges and Opportunities for the Palestine-EU Potential Trade Agreements

- Required Legal and Structural Adjustments for Palestinian-European Possible Aspects of Integration
- Arab Economic and Financial Integration: Challenges and Prospects

### **Submission Guidelines**

The project organisers will follow a two-stage review process. Authors are requested to submit extended abstracts of no more than 500 words in the first stage. The authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers (length: 15- 20 pages). Papers presented in the workshops, unlike those presented in the conference, are not required to be fully reviewed and edited.

Authors are kindly requested to submit their contributions by email to the project coordinator at [mdodeen@birzeit.edu](mailto:mdodeen@birzeit.edu).

**Working Language:** Arabic & English (translation is available)

### **Important Dates:**

Abstract submission: January 8, 2012.

Notification (Abstract): January 10, 2012.

Full working paper submission (4000-6000 words): February 15, 2013.

Estimated date of workshops: between 5-12 April 2013.

Selected papers for presentation in the conference:

Notification (Full Paper): May 5, 2013.

Revision submission (if necessary): May 15, 2013.

Final notification - May 20, 2013

Estimated Conference date: June 5-10, 2013

### **Contacts**

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the project coordinator Prof. Mahmoud Dodeen at 00970 597057078, Fax: 00970 22982137, or [mdodeen@birzeit.edu](mailto:mdodeen@birzeit.edu).