

ELI Prize for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Comparative/European Family and Succession Law

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Purpose & Sponsor

The Special Interest Group on Family and Succession Law of the European Law Institute (ELI Family & Succession Law SIG) is delighted to launch the first annual prize recognizing outstanding doctoral theses in Comparative Family Law, Comparative Succession Law, and Comparative or European Private International Law (in the field of family or succession), with the sponsorship of the Österreichische Notariatskammer (the Austrian Chamber of Notaries).

Prize & Recognition

- Monetary Award: €500, sponsored by the Austrian Chamber of Notaries.
- The winner will be awarded the ELI F&S Law SIG Certificate of Distinction, will be mentioned on the ELI F&S Law SIG website and get the opportunity to present his/her work in an ELI F&S Law SIG webinar with an international audience

Eligibility

Ph. D. already awarded by a recognized university in an EU Member state, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland between January 1st 2024 and 30th June 2025. The thesis must address one (or a combination) of Comparative Family Law, Comparative Succession Law, Comparative or European International Family Law, Comparative or European International Succession Law. The thesis must be written in one of the first five most spoken EU languages, namely: English, German, French, Italian or Spanish.

Submission Materials in three separate PDF files

- Full Thesis (File Naming: Lastname_Firstname_Thesis.pdf)
- Abstract and Criteria Statement, drafted exclusively in English and using the enclosed model form (File Naming: Lastname_Firstname_Abstract_and_Criteria_Statement.pdf)

Application to be sent to zivilrecht@uni-graz.at with the subject line: ELI SIG Thesis Prize 2025 – [Lastname, Firstname]

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by originality and innovation, scholarly rigor and methodology, comparative depth and intercultural awareness, practical/policy contribution, structure, clarity and academic style, source base and citation quality, critical engagement and interdisciplinary awareness.

Deadlines

Call opens: **1 August, 2025**

Deadline for Submissions: **30 September 2025 (23:59 CET)**

Winner Notified: **15 December 2025**

Selection Committee

- Elena Bargelli (University of Pisa, Italy)
- Gregor Christandl (University of Graz, Austria)
- Ilaria Pretelli (Institut Suisse de Droit Comparé, Switzerland)
- Francisco Javier Jiménez Muñoz (National Distance Education University (UNED), Spain)
- Denise Wiedemann, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and Private International Law (Hamburg, Germany)