



European University Viadrina and EuSoCo invite:

## **SYMPOSIUM *ad Viadrum*** **“LIFE TIME CONTRACTS”**

„Principles of social long-term contracts –  
the case of contracts about digital work and digital content“

22-23 March 2019, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany and Słubice, Poland

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Social contract law is supposed to enable social cooperation and the fulfilment of existential needs of every person. Contracts about work, executed dependently in employment or independently in freelance work, are therefore an excellent test case for the social workings of contract law.

Five years after the International Social Contract Law Group (EuSoCo) published its „Principles of social long-term contracts“, this conference revisits the Principles in view of recent developments in the contracting of work and labour. It departs from the analysis that in many legal orders contract law is modelled on sales contracts. Social long-term contracts governing employment and work, consumer credit, renting and leasing (= Life Time Contracts, LTC) have been put to the margins of contract law. In order to gain a fresh perspective on how a social contract law could look like, this conference approaches basic contractual forms, principles, common approaches and achievements in existing social contract laws from their borders and fringes, i.e. in contracts about work.

The term “contracts about work” refers to the fact that work, in the digital age, is being contracted not only in employment and other long-term contracts, but more and more with the help of digital platforms modelled on sales and spot contracts. There has been an ongoing debate as to the boundaries between employment and self-employment, between organisation and market coordination. This conference searches for general principles for contracts about work, and puts the principles of social long-term contracts to the test of contracts about work.

**Venue:** Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, PL 69 – 100 Słubice

**For information and registration:**

Prof. Dr. Eva Kocher,  
Juristische Fakultät, Europa-Universität Viadrina,  
Große Scharrnstr. 59, D-15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

**Contact:** [EuSoCo-FfO2019@europa-uni.de](mailto:EuSoCo-FfO2019@europa-uni.de)



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... Life Time Contracts ... social long-term contracts ... soziale Dauerschuldverhältnisse ... relational contracts  
... contrat de durée ... contratti "di durata" per l'esistenza della persona ... services of first necessity ... soziale Dauer-  
nutzungsverhältnisse ... Life Time Contracts ... social long-term contracts ... soziale Dauerschuldverhältnisse ...

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## **SYMPOSIUM *ad Viadrum*** **"LIFE TIME CONTRACTS"**

### **Program**

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of March

13h: welcome lunch

14h: **Session I Beyond Employment in the digital context**

In this session, we will talk about "life time contracts" in the context of new models of employment and work in the digital era, particularly in relation to work on and with platforms, such as Crowdfunding or Transport/Delivery Platforms. Here, personal work is no longer constructed as long-term employment, but in civil-law contracts about piece-work. How is the concept of the "employee" or "worker" able to grasp these relationships and vice-versa? Which principles of contract law should be applied in any personal work nexus? Which principles of "life time contracts" do we need?

*Panel:* Ruth Dukes (University of Glasgow), Luca Ratti (University of Luxembourg), Udo Reifner (iff Hamburg), Martin Risak (Universität Wien), Julia Tommasetti (City University Hong Kong).

*Chair:* Eva Kocher (European University Viadrina)

17h: **Session II Collective action in digital contexts**

Collectivity can be a way of regulating from below, by the use of countervailing power. Digital life has changed the ways people communicate and interact; collective action may therefore also be changing. At least in employment and labour law, the future of collective action in self-employment may be at stake. How does this relate to other areas of the law where collectivity has been used as a means of legal action? Which principles of "life time contracts" do we need in order to stabilize these actions?

*Panel:* Chiara Cristofolini (Università di Trento), Jason Dinse (University College Roosevelt), Isabell Hensel (Frankfurt (Oder)), Orsola Razzolini (University of Genova), Peter Rott (Universität Kassel)

*Chair:* Luca Nogler (Universität Trento)

20h: dinner



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Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March

10h: **Session III Contracts in digital contexts: life time contracts?**

The sales contract has commonly been considered the model and ideal type of a spot contract in contrast to life time contracts. However, in the digital era, products and service are more and more interwoven with digital content and digital systems, which are supposed to accompany us in a long-term relationship. Will the sales contract become a life time contract? Which principles of "life time contracts" do we need?

*Panel:* Olha Cherednychenko (University of Groningen), Mateja Durovic (King's College London), Geraint Howells (City University Hong Kong), Andrea Nicolussi (Katholische Universität Mailand), Klaus Tonner (Universität Rostock)

*Chair:* Eva Kocher (European University Viadrina)

12h: **Conclusion/final debate**

*Chair:* Thomas Wilhelmsson (Helsinki)

13h: good-bye lunch

*What is EuSoCo?*

The International Social Contract Law Group (EuSoCo) was founded by a group of academics in 2005. The group conducts research, organises seminars and conferences and publishes its findings in different languages in order to develop principles for social long-term relations. EuSoCo contrasts sales law – which has traditionally provided the model for contract law – with consumer credit law, landlord-tenant law, and labour law – i.e. areas of the law which regulate the provision of the basic needs of people.

In 2014, EuSoCo published a Declaration, 16 Principles of Social Long-Term Contracts, and the book „Life Time Contracts: Social Long-term Contracts in Labour, Tenance and Consumer Credit Law“ (edited by Luca Nogler and Udo Reifner). After meetings in Trento (2009 and 2012), Hamburg (2010, 2012 and 2016), Santiago de Compostela (2014), Braga (2015), Luxembourg (2016) and Hongkong (2018), this is the first EuSoCo-Conference in Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice at the German-Polish border.