Legal Design Roundtable

27 April 2019 | h. 14.00-18.00

Odisee Campus, Hermes Building, 1st floor, room 1201
Rue d’Assaut/Stormstraat 2, 1000 Brussels
Dark patterns are choice architectures used by many websites and apps to maliciously nudge users towards a decision that they would not have made if properly informed. Such deceptive practices that exploit individuals’ heuristics and cognitive biases (e.g. interfaces designed to hide costs until the very end of the transaction, services and products added to the consumer’s basket by default, etc.) are already well-known and sanctioned in the consumer protection domain.

Regrettably, dark patterns have become widespread also in the area of data protection, where users are de facto forced to accept intrusive privacy settings because of the way the information is framed and privacy choices presented by website’s operators. When users are tricked by design not only they can be harmed but also their trust in the digital market is likely to be affected. Dark patterns are therefore posing an additional challenge to data protection law, that needs to be addressed in an interdisciplinary way.

The Legal Design Roundtable aims to foster a constructive debate on the practice of dark patterns and to involve lawyers, academics, designers, technologists, civil rights advocates, policy makers.

Legal Design is an interdisciplinary field - at the crossroad of law, design, behavioural sciences, computer science – that applies human-centred design to prevent or solve legal problem. What tools and methodology can legal design offer to address the issue of dark patterns? If we know what are the biases and heuristics used for manipulating users, can we reverse engineer dark patterns into “light” patterns?
Program

14.00 - 14.30  Registration

14.30 - 14.45  Welcoming remarks
Alain Strowel (UCLouvain, Université Saint-Louis, KULeuven, IP Munich Centre) and Rossana Ducato (UCLouvain and Université Saint-Louis)

14.45 – 15.05  Invited speeches
Giovanni Buttarelli, EDPS (by remote)
Antonia Fokkema, DG JUST, Directorate E for Consumers

15.05 - 15.55  Impulse talks by
Margaret Hagan, Director of the Stanford Legal Design Lab
Stefania Passera, Designer and Fellow at the University of Helsinki
Helena Haapio, Professor at the University of Vaasa
Arianna Rossi, Postdoc researcher at University of Luxembourg
Anne-Lise Sibony, Professor at UCLouvain
Moderator: Rossana Ducato

15.55 - 16.50  Debate
Sari Depreeuw, Professor at Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles
Dariusz Kloza, Researcher at Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Christoph Schmon, Senior Legal Officer at BEUC
Peggy Valcke, Professor at KULeuven [TBC]
Chair: Alain Strowel

16.50 - 17.00  Concluding remarks by Rossana Ducato

17.00 - 18.00  The Light Patterns Cocktail

The attendance to the Legal Design Roundtable is free of charge, but registration is needed. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If interested, please register at the following link: https://bit.ly/2UuQzhf

The Legal Design Roundtable is an event promoted within the Jean Monnet Module “European IT Law by Design”, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union.