

ERDAL: A New Journal in the European Legal Landscape

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With the launch of this new editorial project: *ERDAL- European Review of Digital Administration & Law*, the first issue provides an in-depth analysis of the relationship between law and digital administration from both a theoretical and practical approach.

The idea of developing a new journal was born in the minds of a group of friends and colleagues who, for some time now, have been studying with interest and passion the legal aspects related to the technological modernization of the public sector. We have met regularly at several conferences held in different European countries sharing joint projects, initiatives and publications.

These activities have made it possible to intensify contacts and discussions within an original working group, and through this we have discovered the need to explore in depth those issues on a comparative and supranational basis, particularly in the context of the European Union.

Comparative analysis, which can be usefully developed in all legal branches, seems to play an important role in the "emerging" area of Public Law and technology. Indeed, this is a sector where new challenges and up-and-coming problems can best be addressed through collaboration amongst those who can provide the expertise in the existing legal framework within several EU Member States.

This factor acquires even greater significance if we consider the EU origin of many provisions, such as the legal framework regarding electronic signatures, digital identity, open data or those relating to the right to confidentiality. Finally, many references to digital administration are found in "sectoral" provisions, as with those concerning public procurement.

Consequently, the significance of the EU in this field makes comparative analysis even more valuable and fruitful. Particularly, it may be of great interest to verify in what terms and to what extent e-Government tools are applied throughout the Member States. This approach would allow us to benefit from common experiences regarding rules, traditions, judgements and other documents issued in different legal-political contexts but with a common background.

The growing interest in sharing ideas, materials and projects has led to the initiative of founding a new thematic journal. On the one hand, it aims to be a catalyst for legal debate and, at the same time, a tool to enable the publication of specialised research and studies, both by those directly involved in *ERDAL* and, in general, by the European and world-wide legal community interested in the interaction between Law and public sector digital transformation.

To enable the above-mentioned purpose it has been decided that the journal be organised in several sections.

The first of these will be devoted to a monographic study on a particularly relevant and contemporary subject which, as explained previously, will be tackled from the perspective of scholars belonging to different States and, therefore, analysts from varying legal backgrounds.

A section has also been set aside specifically dedicated to 'Studia Varia', which is to say, to the thematic free papers submitted to the editorial staff. In this way, even if they refer to subjects which are non-connected to the monographic section, a greater diversity is provided. Ultimately, it is easier for works of general interest, referring to current affairs, to be published without having to wait for a specific monographic publication.

In addition, another section will deal with comments upon case-law studies, mainly drawn from the most interesting decisions adopted by the EU and national courts.

Finally, a special area has been devoted to compiling the latest news and relevant judicial rulings from European countries, allowing *ERDAL* readers to discover the most significant advances and features.

Our hope is that *ERDAL* can actively contribute to expanding the existing scientific debate in a critical area for public sector transformation. All experts and academics in this field are warmly invited to send their contributions and contact the editorial staff to study the possibility of collaborating: *ERDAL* is an open project, which is available to all of those who would like to contribute to its further development and to the in-depth discussion of topics relative to the field of the journal.

