

Special Issue

Harmonisation of Intellectual Property Rules: A Path Towards Global Integration?

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue maps the process of harmonisation of IP, its supposed benefits, and its regional and global challenges. While on the one hand harmonisation seems to be a way of ironing out the legal annoyances and promoting international cooperation, on the other hand, it raises serious questions regarding the implication of such changes for the local innovation ecosystem, knowledge access, and proper weighting between IP protection and the public interest. We invite papers that assess the effectiveness of IP harmonisation efforts, both those driven by international treaties such as the TRIPS Agreement and regional initiatives within economic blocs like the European Union and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

15 January 2026



Laws

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 1.1
CiteScore 3.0



mdpi.com/si/217689

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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