



Editorial

This thematic issue of *UNIO - EU Law Journal* is fully dedicated to issues related to the Digital Single Market. It is part of the Jean Monnet Project “INTEROP - *EU Digital Single Market as a political calling: interoperability as the way forward*”, developed by researchers who are part of the Editorial Board of UNIO – a project that aims at discussing with European policymakers the meaning to be drawn for the Digital Single Market, identifying its potentialities and weaknesses, and debating what to expect in terms of their achievement and their impact in the Member States. More specifically, the project intends to test the scope of “interoperability” in a wide range of domains.

The texts published in this edition reflect to a large extent the discussions in two workshops held with the support of the Information Office of the European Parliament in Portugal, namely: “The EU and the Digital Single Market” (October 2017) and “Interoperability in the Security Union” (June 2018). The first workshop was attended by MEPs José Manuel Fernandes and Carlos Zorrinho (European Parliament rapporteur for the *Wifi4EU* initiative on free wireless connectivity in local communities¹); and the second workshop was attended by MEP Nuno Melo (rapporteur for the European Parliament on interoperability of information systems and counter-terrorism, irregular migration and cross-border crime).

We open this issue of *UNIO – EU Law Journal* with a paper by Alessandra Silveira and Pedro Froufe in which the Authors try to demonstrate why the protection of personal data has become the identity issue of our times in terms of fundamental rights (*jusfundamental* identity issue). The Authors argue that, being the European Union a Union based on the rule of law, the importance and attention given to the effectiveness of the fundamental right to the protection of personal data is justified not only by the pressure of the technological times we are experiencing and by the gradual emergence of a *homo digitalis* – but is, above all, at the service of the political deepening of integration through European citizenship (as a “citizenship of rights”).

In the sense of this citizenship – and because the so-called “static” European citizens also “circulate” through the Internet and must have their rights safeguarded –, the development of e-Government / e-Administration is scrutinised by Sophie Perez. The Author addresses the Digital Single Market through the coordination of social security systems – or interoperability solutions at the service of social protection.

¹ See Regulation (EU) 2017/1953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017.

Having as background the recent legislative reform in this area, the Author seeks to test the implementation of the Digital Single Market in the public sector through high quality, interoperable, and digital cross-border public administration.

The interdisciplinarity of this edition of UNIO – *EU Law Journal* is ensured by the texts of Elsa Costa e Silva (Sciences of Communication) and Sandra Fernandes (Political Science) – the Authors address, respectively, the *WiFi4EU* initiative and the Security Union. The first initiative is analysed by Elsa Silva regarding the issues of digital literacy and the power of actors in network, while the second *dossier* is scrutinised by Sandra Fernandes from a security perspective of the European Union and the emergence of digital as a defence matter.

Following, Joana Abreu presents a critical assessment of the proposal for a new Code for Electronic Communications presented by the European Commission. The purpose of this proposal is to redefine the European universal service in order to update it to the connectivity solutions of our time, as well as to review the role of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications, giving it wider powers in the context of transnational litigation and coordination between the European institutions and national regulatory authorities.

The main problem addressed by Alexandre Veronese and Marcelo Cunha – researchers from the Group of Studies in Telecommunications Law of the University of Brasília – concerns the legal regime applicable to electronic commerce (e-commerce) in the face of the integration of purchase and sale systems with means of payment. The text focuses on Brazilian law in light of European Union law and reveals the difficulties of protection against fraud and damages within commercial relations in the global market.

Following are some texts that bring up technical issues of a more specific nature within the Digital Single Market. Isabel Espín criticizes the regulation of licenses for the exploitation of out-of-commerce works – as foreseen in the proposal for a directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market. In turn, Francisco Andrade addresses issues related to the identification, signature and other trust services in electronic transactions in the internal market, so that citizens can benefit from digital services in a technical and legally secure environment. Pedro Freitas focuses on the sanctioning regime provided for in the General Data Protection Regulation applicable from 25 May 2018 and Graça Canto Moniz addresses the issue of the extraterritorial scope of application of the European Union regime of personal data protection in the light of that same General Regulation.

The last three texts of this edition are authored by Master's students of the School of Law of the University of Minho, selected from papers presented in the last semester on the development of the Digital Single Market. Their papers were included under the INTEROP project as it aims at promoting young researchers' engagement and sensitivity to the topics concerning the Digital Single Market. The selected articles stood out for the quality of their contributions throughout this academic year. Rui Castro Vieira analyses the progress of e-Government and e-Democracy through interoperability projects to promote European citizenship and the development of a cyberpolitical space in the European Union. In turn, Diogo Brandão addresses the *WiFi4EU* initiative in light of the principles of European Union law in the fields of regulation and competition. Finally, Tiago Cabral scrutinizes the social and economic opportunities and challenges brought by the development of robotics and artificial intelligence in the European Union.

Editorial Board