



TRACE Project Essay Competition 2024

The [TRACE Consortium](#) is pleased to announce the AI and Law Enforcement in Europe Essay Competition. On this occasion, the essay title is as follows:

Essay Title:

In the context of the EU law (*acquis communautaire*), how can the law achieve a balance between protecting fundamental rights and the use of AI in law enforcement?

Prizes:

1st Prize: €150 and an invitation to present the essay at the TRACE Project Conference in June 2024 in Vienna, Austria.

2nd Prize: € 100

3rd Prize: € 50

The winning entry will also be published in the [Newsletter](#) of the TRACE Project.

Further details are available from:

Essay Competition co-ordinator: Dr. Reinhard Kreissl reinhard.kreissl@vicesse.eu

Essay Competition Rules:

1. The competition is open to any of the students on undergraduate degree in law at a Faculty/School of Law or equivalent institution in a European country.
2. Eligibility shall be determined by the essay coordinators whose decision shall be final and conclusive
3. Students of both full-time and part-time degree programmes are eligible.
4. All entries must address the topic as sated above and not exceed 2,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography).

5. The essay must be an original piece of work free of any plagiarism. No essay should have been previously submitted or shortlisted in any previous essay competition. The essay must not have been be previously published either in full or part.
6. All entries must be in English and must be presented formally acknowledging sources with footnotes and references in one of the accepted styles such as OSCOLA or Harvard for legal essays and a bibliography.
7. Entries must be in electronic form as a word document. Footnotes should be placed at the foot of the page, not at the end of the text. Please make sure that the essay can easily be opened as a Word document and does not have any restrictions placed on it in terms of access. The text should be in Arial 12 font, 1.5 line spacing and the footnotes in subscript.
8. The entry should have a cover page giving:
 - i. The Entrant's full name
 - ii. Postal address and email address
 - iii. The course of study and the name and address of the institution
 - iv. The word count of the essay (excluding footnotes and bibliography)
9. The judges will be particularly looking for:
 - i. Originality of ideas
 - ii. Feasibility of outcomes
 - iii. Depth of research and analysis
 - iv. The use of comparative materials from across European countries
 - v. Logical structure
 - vi. Literary merit of materials used
 - vii. Good presentation
10. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form and a scanned signed copy of a declaration by the entrant that the essay represents his/her own unaided work. It must also be accompanied by a similar supporting statement by a teacher or administrator of the law school of which an entrant is a student, to the effect that he or she satisfies the criteria for entry.
11. All entries should be sent by email to the following email address on or before the 31st of March 2024 – reinhard.kreissl@vicesse.eu
12. The entries will be assessed by a team of markers and essay co-ordinators whose decision will be final and no correspondence in this connection will be entertained.

13. The TRACE Consortium reserves the right to decline to award any or all prizes in the event of a failure of entries to reach an appropriate standard.
14. The author of the essay retains the copyright of the respective work, but TRACE Consortium reserves the right to print, reprint, and distribute all submitted entries at any time, regardless of whether or not they are prize-winning entries. The credit will be duly attributed to the author of the essay.

Processing and Evaluation:

1. On receipt of the entries, the coordinator will record and acknowledge their receipt.
2. The coordinator will then send the entries for checking for plagiarism by a member of the panel appointed by the TRACE Consortium, who will check using a software such as 'Turnitin'. Entries with a high incidence of similarities will be eliminated and a report may be sent to student's institution.
3. The entries will then be sent by the Coordinator to all the panel members marking. They will mark them applying the criteria given in Rule 9.
4. Following the completion of marking final three best essays will be considered winners in order to merit.
5. The Coordinator will then present the marks and the scripts to the TRACE Consortium for confirmation and award of prizes.
6. Once approved, the competitors will be informed of the results and the TRACE Consortium will take action to award the prizes to the winners and publish the winning entries.