



## **Open Call for Joint Project with the CLDS** **(Target group: Professors of the Law Faculty of UZH)**

*Do you have an idea for a research project in law that involves data analysis? Do you want to collect and analyze legal data but lack the necessary expertise? Do you want to use state-of-the-art data science methods in your legal research project?*

### **Summary**

The Center for Legal Data Science (CLDS) is launching an open call addressed to all members of the Law Faculty of the University of Zurich. The CLDS welcomes all project ideas involving a data science-component. The CLDS acts as project partner and offers a fully-funded infrastructure for planning and carrying out the data science-component of a legal research project (involving, e.g., the collection of legal data) for the duration of 12 months.

### **About the CLDS**

The Center for Legal Data Science is an interdisciplinary research hub at the Law Faculty of the University of Zurich. Its core task is the application, critical reflection and promotion of data science methods in national and international legal contexts. The CLDS pursues the following high-level goals:

- advancing legal knowledge and legal knowledge production through the application of quantitative methods,
- enhancing the transparency of the law and legal procedures through the application of quantitative methods,
- facilitating interdisciplinary legal research and teaching involving quantitative methods, on a national and international level.

### **About the call**

The CLDS welcomes project ideas from all fields of legal scholarship. The proposed project idea must involve a data science-component.

The CLDS provides you with the necessary support you need to carry out your project, including:

- Support in establishing the empirical research design,



- Establishing and supervising a human coding team (in case new legal data must be collected),
- Carrying out the data collection (by human coding team),
- Carrying out the data processing,
- Carrying out the data analysis,
- Discussing the results,
- Support in the dissemination of the results.

The support of the CLDS is limited to 12 months. The CLDS acts as a partner responsible for the data science part of the project (*project partner data science*). Substantial contributions in at least two phases of the project lead to co-authorship of the CLDS team members involved. If new legal data are collected, the CLDS acquires co-ownership of the data. The project partner responsible for the legal scholarship component (*project partner law*) is responsible for developing the initial research question, identifying gaps in the existing literature, determining the necessary data to conduct the project, and fully commits to delivering the legal scholarship part of the research project. In particular, the project partner law must designate a research assistant (preferably a doctoral student) who can take an active role in the project and can act as a point of contact for the CLDS. The project partner responsible for the legal scholarship component will cover their own costs.

### Who may apply

This call is limited to professors of the Law Faculty at UZH who are members of the CLDS.

### How to apply

In order to be eligible, applicants are required to provide information on the following:

1. Project team: Who is part of the project team (project partner law)? Do you intend include further (external) members?
2. Title of the proposed research project: What is the (working) title of the project?
3. Project aim: What is the research aim?
4. Background: Why is this a topical project? What is the gap in the literature?
5. Current state of your own research: What research have you already undertaken in the relevant field?
6. Data science part:
  - i. Is the collection/coding of new legal data required for the project?
  - ii. Is the data contained in a database (open-access, online)?
  - iii. If the data is not openly available, do you have access to it?
  - iv. How large do you estimate the dataset to be (approx. number of observations)?
  - v. What are research questions that you would like to answer based on an analysis of the data?



7. Timeline: What is the envisaged start of the project? When is the envisaged time of completion of the project?
8. Third party funding: Is third party funding available? If yes, by whom/amount? If not, do you intend to submit an application for third party funding?

The project proposal **should not exceed 5 pages**.

### **Deadline**

The deadline for applications is September 31, 2024 (23:59 CET).

### **Evaluation Procedure**

The CLDS Executive Board, together with the CLDS General Manager, will review all project applications. By early October 2024, applicants will receive notification whether their proposal has been selected for further evaluation. Shortlisted projects will be invited for an interview in mid-October 2024. By the beginning of March 2025, all applicants will be notified of the final decision.

### **Contact**

For questions, please contact Dr. Zhivko Taushanov, General Manager of the CLDS ([zhivko.taushanov@rwi.uzh.ch](mailto:zhivko.taushanov@rwi.uzh.ch)).