AMSTERDAM LAW HUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam Law School

University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam Law Hub


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HUB
Ingang/
Entrance

We believe

justice can only flourish, when it learns to leave the past behind, and focus on the now.

We believe that law cannot be static. As humans; our society, culture and values change continuously.

We believe in the exchange of ideas. Cross-pollination. Listening to others. Learning from each other. Assessing and adapting. Finding solutions together.

We are bridging to justice in the 21st century. We are the Amsterdam Law Hub.

OUTLINE

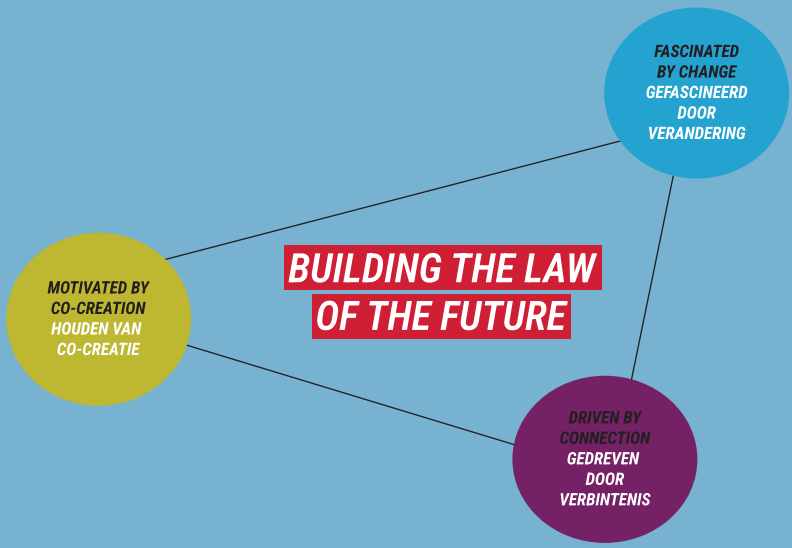
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1 Who we are

In the Amsterdam Law Hub we work at the intersection of education, research and entrepreneurship in the legal industry. We are fascinated by change, driven by connection and motivated by co-creation. This means we focus on setting up innovative or entrepreneurial initiatives coming from academia, projects that have a social impact, and that are set up in collaboration between external partners and research or education at the Amsterdam Law School. Aside from our programmatic work, the Amsterdam Law Hub is also a physical space for co-creation between the Law School and societal partners. Here, justice organisations can rent a space to work, develop new initiatives and host events together with students and researchers.



The Amsterdam Law Hub was opened in February 2019 at the University of Amsterdam as a department of the Amsterdam Law School. We strive to fulfil the School's Strategic Plans with regards to impact. **Our main objective is to amplify the Law School's societal impact of research and education through tailored support and targeted impact-driven programmes with external partners.**

The Law Hub has developed its own strategy over the years: the first strategy came out in 2020. This strategy was reviewed and sharpened in 2023 and runs until 2026. As part of the last strategy review, the Amsterdam Law Hub has redefined its focus:

1. The Law Hub serves primarily as an incubation space for new initiatives in law. As such, we launch and test new projects, programmes or services and, if successful, make sure they continue independently within 3 years. This strategy ensures we remain a place for innovation and experimentation where there is always time to support and test new ideas. When developing new projects or initiatives, we apply design thinking as a proven methodology for innovation.
2. The Law Hub aims to develop projects and initiatives that involve students (or education) as well as staff (or research). We know the most impactful projects combine education and research. As such, we actively work with faculty researchers on their impact ideas, and contribute to impact policy developments at the University. By adding in our own expertise in justice entrepreneurship, we know we can reach innovative, transformative impact.
3. The Law Hub primarily focuses on two thematic areas: (1) access to justice and (2) climate justice. We build networks and expertise in these areas, which allows us to have more value for society. These themes are urgent in today's society, while they also benefit from the academic expertise we have at the Law School.

In this annual report, we will expand more on our activities, projects with societal partners, big wins and financial situation in 2024.

2 Our activities in 2024

In 2024 we were able to build on a renewed strategy at the Amsterdam Law Hub that focuses on two thematic areas and allows us to let go of earlier programmes and start new ones. We started new funded programmes with external partners, such as Schuldenbrug (focusing on legal routes for debt relief in Amsterdam West) and Recht in de Klas (primary school education on rights and obligations in Amsterdam Zuid-Oost). We also gained a more profound connection to the Law School's Research Institute (Amsterdam Research Institute for Legal Studies) through our SkillShare programme, while also contributing to new policy and structures to support researchers in their impact activities. Below, we will discuss our main activities in the following areas:

- Research
- Education
- Projects with external funders
- Community building



Research

In 2024 we continued to be actively involved in supporting Faculty researchers with knowledge utilisation and impact. We did this on an individual level through support in grant applications and personal impact-projects, as well as on a group level through our training curriculum (SkillShare). We also contributed to research impact policy development at the Faculty- and University Impact Committees, by setting up the new Impact Research Fund, and through an event with the Recognition & Rewards team. We will expand on each of these activities below.

Individual Impact Support for Researchers

The Law Hub has been guiding all NWO Veni and Vidi applicants in their impact sections of their proposals and providing all NWO and ERC applicants with pitch coaching for interviews. This support has been formalised and is now an integrated part of the grant application process.
In 2024 there were 19 applications for the NWO Talent Line, which includes Veni, Vidi and Vici as well as Open Competition calls. In addition to our successful Veni candidate we were excited to work closely with Marieke de Hoon on her successful Vidi application.

In addition to grant support, the Law Hub also provided personal impact support to researchers. For instance, the Law Hub worked directly with Agnes Akkerman (Labour Law) to develop a curriculum and pilot an innovative education programme with MBO-HBO-WO on labour rights.

Group Impact Trainings for Researchers

In 2024 the Law Hub training programme SkillShare, delivered jointly with Olga Gritsai, was delivered again to different groups of researchers, with modules spread throughout the year to reflect the grant application cycle more effectively.
18 researchers, ranging from post-docs to Assistant and Associate

professors took part in 2024's programme. In addition to grant writing, research design & methods, pitching and CV & career choices we introduced a new impact module in which researchers developed a tailored impact plan. The PhD programme, now mandatory for 2nd years, expanded to include an introduction to grant writing module at the request of Skillshare participants.

Faculty & University Impact Committees

Ever since 2022, the Law Hub has chaired the Impact Committee, an advisory group within the Amsterdam Law School to advise on research impact (and valorisation) policy. In 2024 - joined by the new Dean, Mireille van Eechhoud - the Impact Committee continued to hold quarterly meetings, with discussions focusing on a.o. the development of the Research Impact Fund, the development of an impact indicator database and the nexus of Recognition & Rewards to impact. In 2024, Frances Singleton took over the secretariat of the Faculty Impact Committee from Nathalie Dijkman. Aside from the dean, the members sitting on the Committee in 2024 were Joao Quintas, Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, Rumyana van Ark, Laura Burgers, Klaas Eller, Andrea Leiter, Katrina Perehudoff, Saskia Woutersen, Olga Gritsai and Lou Errens.

At the University level, Nathalie Dijkman continues to sit on the University Impact Committee, representing the Amsterdam Law School. The University Impact Committee came together 4 times in 2024 and discussed various topics including public-private partnerships, innovation and impact in social sciences (SSH), Nationaal Groeifonds and a review of the Strategisch Kader Valorisatie (University Impact strategy).

Research Impact Fund

One of the instruments to amplify the impact of researchers was suggested by the Faculty Impact Committee to be a fund for small grants that support impact activities. The Law Hub took the lead in setting up the Reseach Impact Fund process and guidelines, in close collaboration with the Research Director of the Law School. The Fund

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was launched in 2024 and able to award its first grants in October 2024. Of the 15 applications made, 7 proposals were selected for funding. Projects included the creation of a documentary about a rewilding programme in Romania and tackles how we quantify the value of nature in law; a collaborative project between artists and legal scholars to visualise data protection rights and an interactive workshop with journalists to evaluate the AI models used in their news feeds.

Recognizing & Rewarding Impact

Together with Programma Erkennen & Waarderen (the University-wide programme recognition & rewards, headed by Anne Floor Erdman) the Law Hub partnered to host a seminar to discuss the challenges and opportunities of societal impact at the University. The main objective was to discuss how research impact activities should be rewarded or recognized. The event took place on 28 November 2024 at RECImpact, was opened by the rector magnificus Peter Paul Verbeek and moderated by Nathalie Dijkman and Anne Floor Erdman. In total over 50 colleagues attended the event and concrete suggestions to incorporate impact activities were collected and handed over to the E&W team for further implementation.


Universiteit van Amsterdam
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Education

The Law Hub is involved in education at the Amsterdam Law School focusing on entrepreneurship. In 2024 this meant we were teaching and coordinating the course Justice Entrepreneurship as part of the ALP master's elective (in April-May 2024) as well as Justice Entrepreneurship as part of the PPLE Integrative Seminar Societal Challenges (June 2024). In addition, we were involved in preparing a proposal for the new bachelors course Recht in Praktijk. Finally, we conducted research for a new post-academic masterclass for state-assisted lawyers (sociale advocatuur). We will expand on each of these activities below.

Justice Entrepreneurship

Nathalie Dijkman coordinates the course Justice Entrepreneurship, which forms part of the Amsterdam Law Practice of the Law School. The course is available to master's students in different master tracks. In 2024, 11 students signed up for the course Justice Entrepreneurship, and eventually 8 students completed the course. These were students from the masters Privaatrecht, Public International Law, Law and Finance, International Criminal Law and European Private Law. The course was very well evaluated and out of the 4 teams, one team continued developing their solution through the Law Hub's incubator programme.

Many students gave us feedback that they didn't know about the existence of the course because it required a separate registration process (with letters of motivation and CVs) and was not visible in the regular class-registration system of GLASS. Based on the low turn-out of students in 2024, we decided to submit the course in AC 2024/2025 to be part of the regular GLASS system. This turned out to be successful as during the new registration cycle in December 2024 the course registration was full with 25 students.

In addition to teaching to master students, the Law Hub has an adjusted curriculum of Justice Entrepreneurship for bachelor students as part of the PPLE Integrative Seminar in block 6. In 2024

we were assigned two groups of 15 students each, which meant we guided in total 30 students in this block. This was more challenging than in previous years where we only had one group, but it also created a bigger pool of dedicated students interested in continuing a career in justice entrepreneurship or legal design. From the PPLE track, 3 teams continued working on their legal initiative after the course and throughout 2024.

Recht in Praktijk

The Amsterdam Law Hub was actively involved in 2024 in co-shaping the course Recht in Praktijk. We supported the design of this course by developing tracks that would involve three tracks that would involve the Law Hub's involvement:

- A track for students working in rechtswinkels, based on the existing course Clinic Rechtshulpverlening;
- A track for students working on entrepreneurship, based on the Justice Entrepreneurship course for PPLE but changed to Dutch;
- A streetlaw track for students working at primary schools, based on our pilot Recht in de Klas (see Projects with external funders).

This proposal was pitched together with ALP colleagues to the Education Director of the Faculty. The proposal was not accepted due to the time-intensive nature of this form of education and the limited available budget.

Masterclass Sociale Advocatuur

In 2024 the Law Hub researched the feasibility of developing a new post-academic course for (soon to be) sociaal advocaten (state-assisted lawyers). This was done in collaboration with the Executive Education branch of the University. The process of researching the foundations of this course included researching the business model: seeing sociaal advocaten may not have sufficient funds to pay for a masterclass according to fees usually charged for executive education, we decided to look for an external funder. By the end of 2024, we managed to secure a subsidy for a 3-year pilot of the

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Masterclass Sociale Advocatuur by Stichting Allemansrecht. This new course was launched in 2025.

Projects with external funders

At least half of the Law Hub's budget comes from collaborations with external partners. We tailor our projects and programmes to the needs of societal partners, while pulling in the talent and expertise we have at the Amsterdam Law School. In 2024 we continued a number of programmes with our partners around legal entrepreneurship (our start-up programme and Re-Startup) and rechtswinkels (the Nederlandse Vereniging van Rechtswinkels and Vrouwenrechtswinkel in new areas). At the same time, we also started new programmes around debt-relief, primary legal education and equality in accessing socio-legal services. We will discuss each project below.

Legal Start-up Programme

In 2024 we continued our extra-curricular incubator programme with funding from Stichting Allemansrecht. The programme is meant for students who want to develop their start-up idea focusing on solving a justice problem. Our incubator is unique in supporting both start-ups and non-profits; in addition to having a technology-agnostic focus. Annually we support about 4-6 start-ups in this programme, led by Frances Singleton. The support given to start-ups consisted of bi-weekly tailored mentoring on topics including strategy, product development & testing, marketing, sales and operations.

The start-ups we supported in 2024 were:

- **Let Us Speak** - Developed the Climate Werewolves game which educates players on the impact of protests as a tool to fight climate change
- **Tenant Hero** - An AI powered tenancy contract analyser which both checks the content of a rental agreement as well as informing users of rental rights which are missing and linking to free services to address this

- **Empowearing** - Clothing which educates wearers about their rights through artistic designs
- **Uprent** - Supporting renters in navigating the rental process and identifying unfair rental practices through process measurement
- **No Impunity** - Generating SDG data reports for climate litigation funders
- **ScamCam** - A travel app alerting users of scams in European cities

From these start-ups three received an investment from the Law Hub's Start-up Fund. This Fund accepts applications for start-up ideas on a rolling basis, and awards up to (maximum) 4 seed investments of 2500 EUR per start-up per year. The Fund makes awards with an external investment committee, selected on a rotating basis from our pool of (legal) entrepreneurs, including individuals like Pablo van Klinken, Farshida Zafar, Erik Boer, Kornelia Dimitrova and Pieter van der Hoeven.



In June 2024 we also organised our annual Legal Start-up Pitch Event, seeing the pitches of 7 legal start-ups and engaging our external network of legal partners. The jury consisted of Jan Dijk, Pablo van Klinken and Farshida Zafar. The event attracted over 60 attendees, and hosted a panel debate with Lieke Beelen, Suzanne Dings and Elena Kuran.

In order to support the wider ecosystem of start-ups with legal advice, in 2024 we hosted another edition of our annual Incuboater, which supported 19 start-ups with free legal advice from 9 lawyers representing firms including CMS-DSB, Stibbe & Dentons.



Re-Startup

In collaboration with the Startup Ecosystem team at the Gemeente Amsterdam, we developed and launched a pilot platform to guide entrepreneurs through the complexities of the Dutch insolvency system. The project was inspired by the research of Sarah Herzog on the experiences of entrepreneurs through failure and the mental, financial and social effects it has had on them. In addition to a successful launch event with the Dutch Startup Association and attended by the Gemeente, Tech Leap and entrepreneurs, the team were able to validate the platform before ultimately handing it over to the municipality for next steps.





Nederlandse Vereniging van Rechtswinkels (NVR)
The NVR was set up in 2023 to support rechtswinkels (legal aid clinics) in the Netherlands thanks to funding from the Ministry of Justice & Security and Stichting Allemansrecht. This includes many rechtswinkels in Amsterdam, where law students from our Law School do voluntary work. At the Law Hub we continued to hold the secretariat of the NVR in 2024, which included the organisation of regular board meetings, two general membership meetings, recruiting new members, organizing 12 trainings, engagements with partners in Dutch legal aid and offering technological solutions/ software for rechtswinkels.

For the first time ever, the NVR was able to collect in-depth data on rechtswinkels in the Netherlands. Specifically, on how they operate, the services they offer, the kind of problems that arise and the resources that are available. The ‘Stand van Rechtswinkels’ report elaborates on this data and was published at the end of 2024.

Furthermore, the NVR was able to acquire a CRM system for rechtswinkels thanks to funding from Stichting Democratie en Media. This system is now being tested for usage by 5 rechtswinkels.

In December 2024, the NVR managed to negotiate a concept for a new, fairer national subsidy scheme for rechtswinkels, from the

government. As this impacts many rechtswinkels in The Netherlands, from 2025 onward, 500.000 euros will be available for rechtswinkels on a yearly basis to enable them to improve the quality of their services.

Vrouwenrechtswinkel Leiden

After successfully establishing the Vrouwenrechtswinkel Amsterdam, the Amsterdam Law Hub was approached by Stichting Utopa to share its expertise in setting up a similar initiative in Leiden. The Law Hub guided the startup process, built a community of local partners, helped make the legal clinic operational, and supported the recruitment of project leaders, legal professionals, and students. In May 2025, the Vrouwenrechtswinkel Leiden will officially open its doors. Through these efforts, the Amsterdam Law Hub strengthens the connection between the legal sector and society.

Schuldenbrug

The Schuldenbrug focusses on supporting informal service providers (working for organisations where people seek help for their debts), with free legal advice through our student population. In 2023 we hired 5 students to set up the network with informal and formal services in Amsterdam and to conduct a feasibility study to test the Schuldenbrug-concept. This study was finished in December 2023 and was used as a proof-of-concpet for setting up the organisation in 2024. In 2024 we successfully received funding from the City of Amsterdam (Nationaal Programma Nieuw-West), Instituut Gak and Stichting Utopa for a 2-year programme. In November 2024 we recruited a team of 10 students and 1 legal porfessional to establish a legal back office for informal caregivers. By reaching out to Schuldenbrug, one can understand the



rights and options when facing financial difficulties. Students conduct the intake and prepare a legal advice. The legal professional reviews the legal advice and provides substantive guidance to the student. The back office is available by phone and email, every working day from 10 AM to 1 PM. The pilot ends in October 2026.

Recht in de Klas

In September, we launched the project Recht in de Klas, in collaboration with the foundation Metrechtinvesteren. In this project, law students teach primary school pupils about the law. The goals of Recht in de Klas are to raise legal awareness among all primary school pupils in Amsterdam (grades 6 through 8) and to provide law students from the Faculty of Law with experience in communicating (legal) knowledge. In 2024 we conducted a series of 10 lessons at a primary school in Amsterdam Zuidoost. Together with the students, we then adapted this lesson series, and we are now testing the updated version.

Research on Inequality

In the final quarter of 2024, a coalition of educational institutions (University of Amsterdam, Applied University of Amsterdam, Applied University InHolland and Free University Amsterdam) together with the Municipality of Amsterdam, called ‘Kenniscentrum Ongelijkheid’ (Knowledge Centre on Inequality) set up a research project on unequal access to justice for marginalized people. In this project, the Law Hub collects data from justice service providers throughout the city. Specifically, data in consultation hours and data from these justice providers will be gathered in order to provide recommendations on how marginalized people can receive more holistic, effective solutions to their problems. In 2024 the Law Hub conducted and presented the results of the desk research to the coalition, which serves as a foundation for the data collection. Final results of this study will be expected in August 2025.

Community Building

The Amsterdam Law Hub is not just a set of programmes, we are also a community of legal innovators, academia, technologists, artists and start-ups. In our space, we organize events, share insights through our podcasts and social media channels, and organize art exhibits. Read below a summary of what we did to engage this community in 2024.

First and foremost, in 2024 we celebrated our five-year anniversary. We hosted multiple activities to celebrate. We started with a temporary five-year logo of the Amsterdam Law Hub, drawn by artist and friend Sasa Ostaja. We organised a large celebration at the Hub, the Five-Year Anniversary Event; with speakers, highlights, workshops, networking and drinks, among others. Paired together we hosted a large videoproduction, with highlights of our projects, collaborations and all festivities. We made a publication, 'Five Year Milestones' as a summary of all our achieved milestones and their impact over the years.

Aside from our 5-year celebration event in February, we also hosted a career event in the Law Hub that month. Our creative communications advisor Gabriela Petralia also supported the Oratie of Prof. Iris van Domselaar by involving art productions. In addition, we hosted our annual Legal Start-up Pitch Event in June, where seven studentteams of legal start-ups pitched their ideas and engaged our external network of legal partners.

Following this, in September and October we collaborated with Legal Geek (the largest legal innovation conference in Europe): first by hosting the first ever side-event of Legal Geek at the Law Hub and presenting at Legal Geek Europe, and secondly by also presenting our climate justice researchers at Legal Geek London.

We continued to incorporate art and creativity into our projects, as a vital part of the identity of the Amsterdam Law Hub. We had our first collaboration exposition with the Klimaatmuseum. We also collaborated with Amsterdam based art project 'Edgelanders: >>

Amsterdam on trial', which centers on Amsterdam's responsibility to provide unconditional shelter for all. Artists Ehsan Fardjadniya and Raul Balai built a fictional case against the city of Amsterdam, based on the position that the city must provide unconditional housing for all, including the "undocumented".



In 2024 the Amsterdam Law Hub partnered with the NRC Handelsblad newspaper and journalist Folkert Jensma, to produce a podcasts series of three episodes on 'The Rule of Law' in the Netherlands. All episodes were published on major podcast platforms, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts. The themes of the episodes revolved around sovereign people, the responsibilities of journalists and authors in upholding the rule of law, and political decisions that are against the rule of law.

Finally, we started the process of developing a magazine about the impact at our Law School. The inspiration for this publication comes from the Law Hub's own experience in developing a highly successful 'impact magazine' celebrating 3 years of our Vrouwenrechtswinkel project. This magazine combined interviews, photojournalism and

visual design to demonstrate our impact and activities during the project lifecycle. This proved to be a particularly effective strategy from a partner engagement, lead generation and external visibility perspective for the following key reasons: increased partner and stakeholder engagement and collaboration, lead generation and increased external visibility. We believe the magazine can also deliver valuable insights to inform our faculty impact strategy. While societal impact is highly valued at the FdR, we currently lack a formal strategy to support it. The development and production of this magazine continued into 2025.




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5
years

3 Big wins 2024

The Amsterdam Law Hub has run many activities and projects in 2024, but we are particularly proud of these **10 big achievements**:

1. We celebrated our 5 years of Law Hub existence and achievements. This meant we counted our results and we know we supported 29 new initiatives, services or products to improve access to justice, 25 grant applications of legal researchers, 33 legal startups set up by students, 38 workshops and events, more than 5000 citizens with legal questions and raised over 1.5 million EUR.

2. We launched the first Research Impact Fund at our faculty, supporting 7 researchers with their unique impact activities.

3. We developed the Impact Database, offering the first comprehensive mapping of the stakeholders and impact activities carried out by researchers of any faculty in the Netherlands

4. Together with three funders we launched Schuldenbrug, a unique 2-year programme where research and education come together to support debt relief through informal support systems in Amsterdam Nieuw West.

5. A new partnership started with Folkert Jensma to develop a podcast focusing on how we can protect the rule of law in the Netherlands, from the perspective of researchers and journalists.

6. For the first time, our law students are teaching primary school kids in Amsterdam Zuid Oost about their rights and obligations as part of a new streetlaw course we piloted.

7. We successfully scaled up the Vrouwenrechtswinkel to new cities, including Leiden and Utrecht.

8. Together with the Nederlandse Vereniging van Rechtswinkels, we published the ‘State of Rechtswinkels’ report, exposing the important work and methods of over 65 rechtswinkels in the Netherlands which are now all members of the association.

9. A new masterclass for sociaal advocaten was funded after research was conducted into existing gaps in the curriculum to support this important group of lawyers.

10. We became partners of the biggest legal innovation conference in Europe, Legal Geek, where we presented climate justice research as a case in-point for collaboration with the private sector.



4 Our team and partners

In 2024, the Amsterdam Law Hub consisted of the following innovative and entrepreneurial team members: Nathalie Dijkman (Director), Frances Singleton (Research & Innovation Manager), Susan Leclercq (Project Manager), Gabriela Petralia (Communications Advisor) whose maternity leave was covered by Laurie Branderhorst, Tim Verheij (Coördinator Legal Aid & Education), Nura Elsheikh (Student Assistant until July 2024), Myrthe van Wilgen (Student Assistant from July 2024), Picabo Rimac (Student Assistant from September 2024). In addition, we continue to receive invaluable support from our Law School colleagues in the Management, HR, Finance and Marketing & Communications departments.

On the next page, you will see an overview of our co-workers, renters, *rechtswinkels*, start-ups and funding partners.



Our co-workers and renters

Our *rechtswinkels*

Our start-ups

And:
Pathway EU

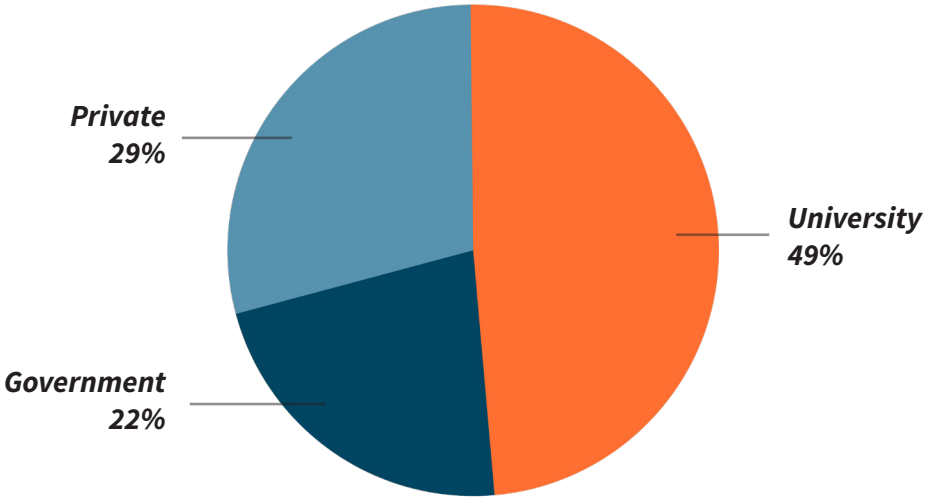
Our funding partners

5 Financial Sustainability

The Amsterdam Law Hub is generously supported by the Amsterdam Law School of the University of Amsterdam. But as entrepreneurs we supplement the financial support from the University with at least 50% of other sources of funding. In 2024, we were very glad to have met this target by receiving financial support from the Gemeente Amsterdam, the Ministry of Justice & Security, NWO, Stichting Allemansrecht, Stichting Utopa, Amsterdam University Fund, Stichting Democratie & Media and Instituut Gak.

The Law Hub's total budget in 2024 was approximately €630.000. In the piechart you can see how the sources of funding were divided within this budget among government subsidies, private funding sources (a.o. philanthropy) and University funding.

Law Hub Revenue Sources 2024




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