

Amsterdam Law Hub

University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Law

2021

Impact

Report



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

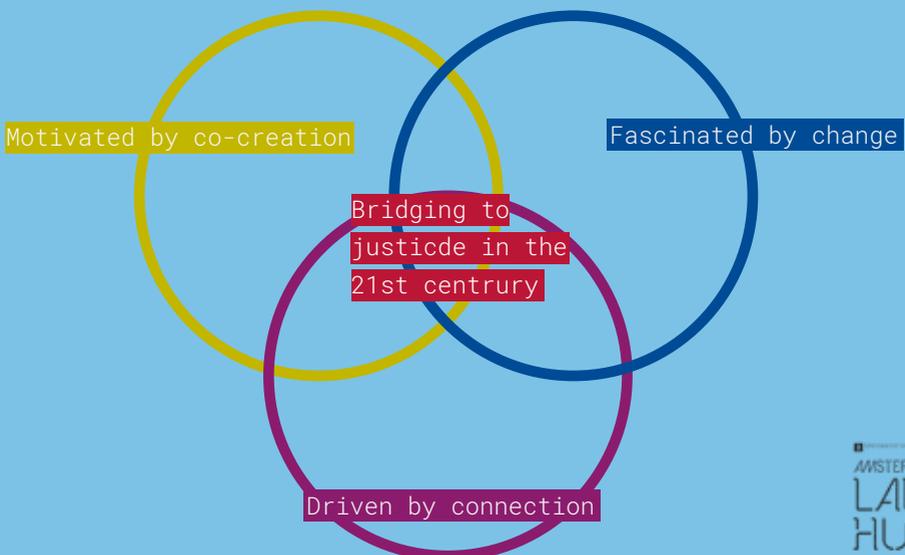
AMSTERDAM
LAW
HUB

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.

for those who want to think holistically



OUTLINE

- 1 Who we are
- 2 Big Wins in 2021
- 3 Our activities in 2021
- 4 Our team and partners
- 5 Financial Sustainability



The Amsterdam Law Hub is an innovation space for impactful co-creation between the Faculty of Law and society. We are fascinated by change, driven by connection and motivated by co-creation.

The Amsterdam Law Hub was opened in February 2019 as an intrinsic part of the University of Amsterdam (Faculty of Law). We strive to fulfill the Faculty's Strategic Plans with regards to impact. At the end of 2020, the Law Hub launched a new strategy in terms of its focus and activities.

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WHO

ARE

WE?

We engage a community of a.o. researchers, professors, students, legal designers, start-ups, legal advice clinics, lawyers, governments and NGOs. Aside from housing a physical hub where we host events, workshops, legal clinics, and the offices of legal organisations, we also engage our community through **four critical programmes**:

Impact Research

Supporting academic talent with making their legal research more impactful in society.

Impact Education

Developing academic courses to teach innovative legal practices.

Market Impact

Nourishing start-ups and businesses to solve justice problems.

Public Impact

Collaborating with NGOs and governments to improve access to justice.

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OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2022

For the Amsterdam Law Hub 2021 was a watershed year, because we were able to launch and roll-out new programmes together with our partners. We are happy to share our main activities of 2021 broken down by the different programmes we run.

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Supporting researchers was established as one of the key pillars for the Law Hub activities. Initially our ideas centered around 'valorisation' of existing research projects. However, after extensive exploration of the existing support gaps we decided to pivot our focus to practical skills. Following a series of successful workshop pilots and support of VENI applications, the Law Hub is putting together a joint proposal for an FdR Talent Factory in collaboration with ARILS and UvA Grant Support for 2022. This programme will seek to build on the series of workshops and guidance provided to researchers through 2021.

Throughout the year we held a number of successful workshops attended by over **50** researchers, ranging from PhD candidates to inter faculty department heads:

- **Pitching to a layman**
- **Pitching for grants**
- **Connecting to media**
- **Project Management** (for the ComCrim research project)
- **Cybersecurity** (for the ComCrim research project)
- **Toogdag thesis presentation** (PIL)

This year also saw us kick off the **3-Minute-Thesis (3MT)**, an international competition organized at over 800 Universities globally aimed at presenting three minute pitches of a PhD thesis through a video. Because the UvA has never participated in this before, the Law Hub took the lead in establishing a pilot phase in the Hub where we produced **three** pitch videos. In September we convinced FNWI, FGW and FEB, along with IXA, to co-organize a university wide 3MT competition.

We're proud to announce that **Malouke Kuijper**, a law faculty researcher, was awarded one of the top **three** prizes.



Finally, the Law Hub has supported **three** VENIs and **one** VIDI through their application process. We are proud to announce that all **four** have been invited through to the second round. All **four** received praise across the board for their Knowledge Utilisation sections, evidence of the success of our support and collaboration with researchers.

Impact Education

Part of our new strategy was to develop a new elective course for masters students of the Law Faculty focusing on entrepreneurship. The course was designed with the support of the TLC (Madeleine Moret), using a human-centred-design methodology and with a focus on developing innovative solutions to access to justice problems. The **course Justice Entrepreneurship** launched at the end of March 2021. The 8-week course was taken by 14 students from six different Master tracks:

- Privaatrecht (both Commerciële- and Privaatrechtelijke Rechtspraak)
- Arbeidsrecht
- Information Law (Research Masters)
- Public International Law
- International trade and Investment Law
- Law & Finance.

The course was very well evaluated by the students with an average 8.7. In addition, 89% of the students wanted to continue developing a solution after the course. This shows the course definitely builds the confidence of students to become an entrepreneur.

The course ended with a hybrid networking- and pitching event for all students and legal tech partners of the Law Hub in June 2021, supported by StartupAmsterdam. Two start-ups from the course are currently part of the Law Hub's Market Impact programme.



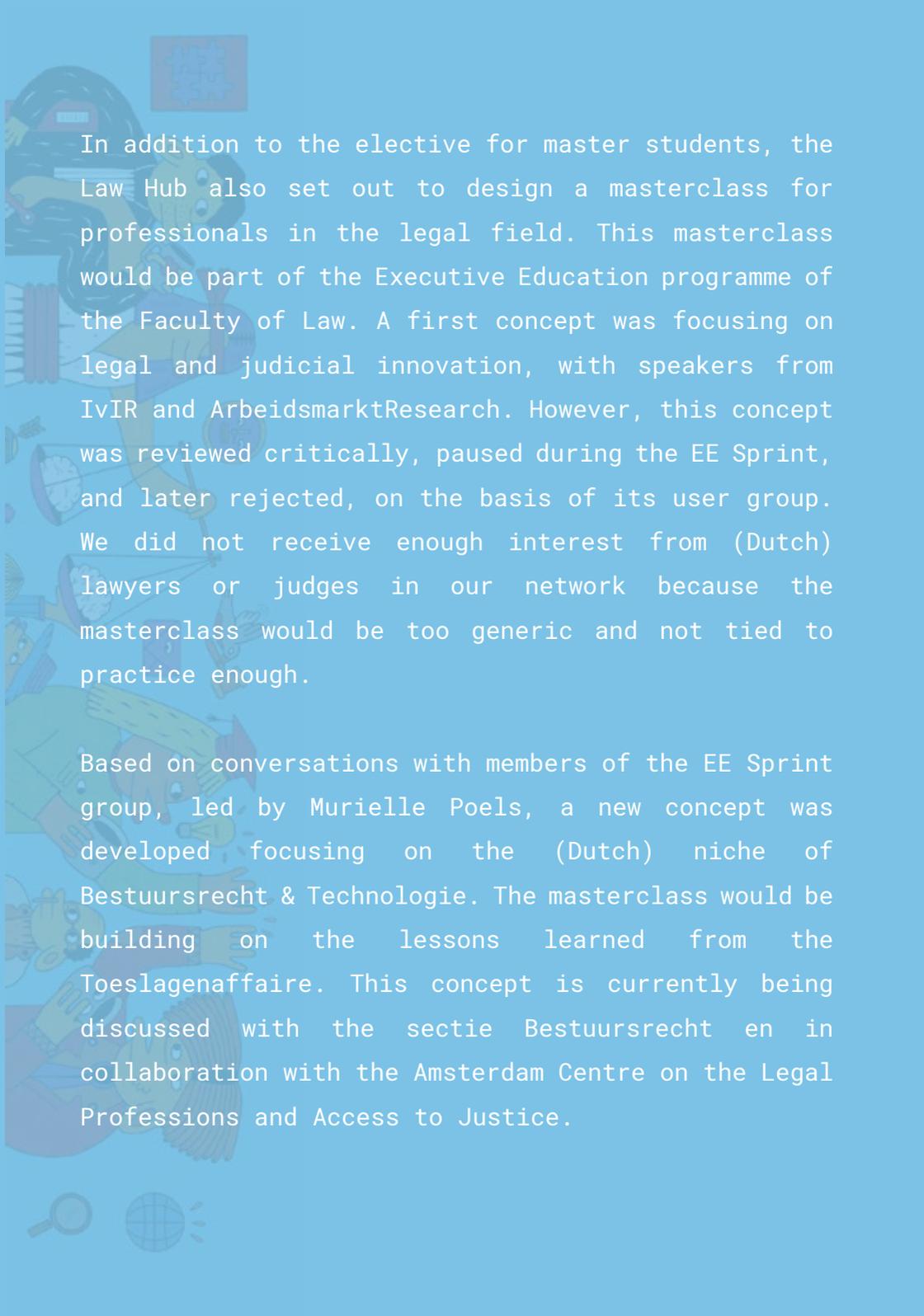
It was the nicest course I had during my studies. It is a time-consuming course, but you get so much out of it if you put a lot of work into it. The tools and guidance you get are very good. Of course, a lot is expected of you, but that's necessary in the entrepreneurial field.''

Student Justice Entrepreneurship 2020-2021

Gouden Zandloper

November 2021, Our Justice Entrepreneurship elective wins the Gouden Zandloper.





In addition to the elective for master students, the Law Hub also set out to design a masterclass for professionals in the legal field. This masterclass would be part of the Executive Education programme of the Faculty of Law. A first concept was focusing on legal and judicial innovation, with speakers from IvIR and ArbeidsmarktResearch. However, this concept was reviewed critically, paused during the EE Sprint, and later rejected, on the basis of its user group. We did not receive enough interest from (Dutch) lawyers or judges in our network because the masterclass would be too generic and not tied to practice enough.

Based on conversations with members of the EE Sprint group, led by Murielle Poels, a new concept was developed, focusing on the (Dutch) niche of Bestuursrecht & Technologie. The masterclass would be building on the lessons learned from the Toeslagenaffaire. This concept is currently being discussed with the sectie Bestuursrecht en in collaboration with the Amsterdam Centre on the Legal Professions and Access to Justice.



The Law Hub in collaboration with the Amsterdam Law Practice designed an elective specifically designed for students working in the Free Legal Advice Centres. In April 2022 it will be the first time students can enroll the course titled **Clinic Rechtshulpverlening** and earn **six** credits upon successful completion.

OVERVIEW AMSTERDAM

LAW HUB



Market Impact

The beginning of 2021 saw us finalise our Market Launch and Start-up fund framework. We work with start-ups on a module basis, covering everything from product-market fit to the development of a minimum viable product. We meet with founders every **two** weeks, establishing objectives and key results and keeping track on progress. We are currently working with **four** start-ups and are supporting a number of other pro-bono initiatives.

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Legal Crowd; Founded by Gabriel Poltorak and Joost Jansen (students)

Legal Crowd is a crowdfunding initiative for important legal cases. Joost and Gabriel began their business together during Justice Entrepreneurship and went on to win the Legal Start-up Event, and were nominated for most innovative students in the Netherlands. Their first case will go live on the platform in December 2021.

Damsco; Founded by Olele Akhile and Daniel Ten Tusscher (students)

Currently in development, Damsco is a legal advocacy and contracting service designed to support creatives. The goal is to provide understandable contracts at a low price-point to support the underserved community of freelancers. They are currently completing their user research phase and are happy to talk to any creatives who wish to take part in their pilot.

Eternal Contract; Founded by Jan Swoboda (student)

An NFT powered tool to save documents eternally in a blockchain. Currently in the market testing phase, this tool is designed to reduce the fall-out post data hack by retaining full access to documents.

pAItent; Founded by May Lee (student)

pAItent is an AI powered tool designed to support IP lawyers in identifying 'inventive step'. The platform will be able to identify prior art and assess its relative closeness to the existing application through clustering. May Lee is currently developing the MVP and has just found a co-founder.

In order to support our start-ups we launched our **start-up fund** in 2021. This is a convertible grant of **2500** EUR to start-ups who make a successful application following an interview by our jury. Jury members this year selected both Damsco and Legal Crowd from a pool of **five** start-ups for investment.

Alongside the incubator, the Law Hub launched a new initiative to support innovation in the City of Amsterdam. We have collaborated with Pro Bono Connect, **16** of the Netherlands' largest law firms and Uber to launch the **Startup & Stichting clinics**. They take the form of a series of themed free legal advice clinics for start-ups and NGOs. The kick off event was held on a boat (named the **Incuboater**) and was a heartfelt success. **Twenty** different startups joined us for the day, with missions as broad as combating climate change, developing student-led radio initiatives and supporting refugees through employment and art schemes.

INCUBOATER

October 2021, providing free legal advice to start-ups by boat.



Public Impact

As part of our public impact programme the Law Hub collaborates with various partners and our students and colleagues to provide justice solutions.

Het Probleem van de Volle Boodschappentas

In 2021 we launched a new project in collaboration with the *Dutch Legal Aid Council* (de Raad voor de Rechtsbijstand). In this project, called 'Het Probleem van de Volle Boodschappentas', we develop a digital solution for (informal) legal aid providers based on sound research, following the design thinking process. As part of the project we collected data in the form of in-depth interviews and surveys among free legal advice clinics, legal aid lawyers and local legal aid stakeholders. This is a Dutch project and the project is executed in partnership with emeritus professor Mies Westerveld, professor Diana de Wolff, associate professor Iris van Domselaar and Dr. Nienke Doornbos, as well as our partners from ArbeidsmarktResearch, Patroon Legal Design and Wetzoek. The project will run until the end of 2022.

Vrouwenrechtswinkel

Free Legal Advice

Clinic for Women

X X Vrouwenrechtswinkel
X Amsterdam



In September 2021 the Amsterdam Law Hub opened - in collaboration with Bureau Clara Wichmann - the capital's first free legal advice clinic for women. The Vrouwenrechtswinkel offers free legal clinic services for women for any legal issue. A team of legal advisers - law students of the University of Amsterdam and Free University Amsterdam - examine the legal issues the clients put forward. The consultations are supervised by a -paid- inhouse lawyer who safeguards the students' work. An extensive network of advocates can be involved by the students, for both legal advice as well as a legal presentative. The consultation rooms are based in a community centre and are freely accessible with or without appointment. Advisers address clients in many different languages and further a gender sensitive and inclusive work culture. As such, the Vrouwenrechtswinkel provides a safe space for women to talk about their situation and receive expert legal advice to enable them to get justice.

Professionalizing our Rechtswinkels (Legal Clinics)

In 2021 we made an effort to professionalize our in-house free legal advice clinics which are run by students. These existing clinics include the Wetswinkel, Rechtswinkel Bijlmermeer, Strafrechtswinkel, Belastingrechtswinkel and the Juridisch Spreekuur Gedetineerden. We made sure these clinics are better organized and coordinated among each other. But more importantly, we developed a set of trainings and learning modules for students to pick up on their legal advice skills in a newly designed course called **Clinic Rechtshulp**. In addition, a start was made for an 'association of legal clinics' (vereniging rechtswinkels) in the region of Amsterdam, to combine forces in accessing funding, better training opportunities, exchange of best practices and data, and new technologies that may assist the work of the legal clinics.

LEGAL ADVICE

CLINICS

Free legal advice clinics that are located in the Law Hub offer legal support to those seeking justice.



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.

In 2021, we organized the following events:

- **co-workers meetings** ('huurdersborrels')
- **Open House**
- a **Legal Start-up Event**
- the **Incuboater**
- the **3-Minute-Thesis competition**
- brainstormsessions on legal aid
- collaboration with Unicef students & Lawyers for Lawyers on Uganda



In addition, we published **six** podcast episodes, of which **three** on **womens rights** and **three** on the childcare benefit scandal (**Toeslagenaffaire**) in the Netherlands. We launched a new art work in our meeting room by **Sasa Ostaja**, and we hosted **two exhibits** called 'African and Proud' and '30 pesos'. Last but not least, we started our own LinkedIn channel, our own YouTube channel and launched a whole new branding and communications strategy for the Amsterdam Law Hub.



30 PESOS

November 2021, The Dutch-Chilean Jaime Ahumada Espinoza takes you through the streets of Santiago, where protests have been going on for years.

AFRICAN AND PROUD

July 2021, Nathalie Dijkman showed an underexposed side of Uganda.



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BIG WINS 2021

What does it matter what we do at the Law Hub? What are we particularly proud of in 2021? We are not too modest to share a list of our **10 biggest achievements** here.

1 Winning the TLC Innovatie Onderwijsbeurs and the Most Innovative Legal Education Award in The Netherlands (Gouden Zandlopers) for our new course **Justice Entrepreneurship**.

2 Opening of the first **Vrouwenrechtswinkel** in **Amsterdam**, where we have been able to help **187** women in only **three** months in **ten** different languages, and appeared in **six** major newspapers in NL and several other news outlets

3 Kicked-off of a promising and funded partnership with the Raad voor Rechtsbijstand, interviewed over **25** legal professionals in order to develop a new digital tool for legal aid with the potential to benefit at least **1000** citizens in The Netherlands in 2022.

4 Our students from the start-up LegalCrowd were nominated for **Innovatiefste Student van Nederland**.

5 We kick-started the **3-Minute-Thesis competition** for the first time at the University of Amsterdam, pulled in **4** faculties, and made sure the competition will now be a repeated event at the UvA.

6 By **guiding three FdR VENIs**, their applications got through to interview stage, all with excellent reviews of their Knowledge Utilisation sections.

7 Over **50 FdR researchers** took part in our **workshops** and know how to better pitch and present their research.

8 We developed a growing funded partnership with Start-upAmsterdam and Pro Bono Connect, leading to **20 start-ups and NGOs receiving free legal advice**, with another **30** on the waiting list.

9 We **increased our followers** on Instagram by **77,81%**, increased newsletter subscribers by **199%**, and reached **1000-2000** LinkedIn views a month.

10 For our latest **podcast** series about 'de Toeslagenaffaire' we had in **one** week almost as many listeners as we had with all the other episodes over the year.

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OUR TEAM AND PARTNERS

Not only did we receive new funding streams to support our activities, we were also able to achieve much more thanks to a bigger team. The Amsterdam Law Hub team currently consists of 6 driven and ambitious women: Nathalie Dijkman (Director), Frances Singleton (Research & Innovation Manager), Susan Leclercq ((Vrouwen)rechtswinkel Manager), Gabriela Petralia (Communications), Mercede van Voorthuizen (Researcher), and Eva van der Wal (Student Assistant). In addition, we continue to receive invaluable support from our Faculty of Law colleagues in the Management, HR, Finance and Marketing & Communications departments.

MEET

THE TEAM

from left to right: Eva, Mercede, Susan, Gabriela, Frances & Nathalie.



OUR CO-WORKERS

JSG

Juridisch Spreekuur Gedetineerden

xxx Vrouwenrechtswinkel
xxx Amsterdam



PI LP

pro
bono
connect



BUREAU
CLARA WICHMANN



Nuhanovic
Foundation



LegalCrowd

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

startup  >
amsterdam

Uber

 AMSTERDAMS
UNIVERSITEITSFONDS

 Gemeente
Amsterdam

INNOVATION
EACHENGE
AMSTERDAM 

*Raad voor
Rechtsbijstand*

OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

patroon

 UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

 Amsterdam Centre on the Legal
Professions and Access to Justice

 Wetzoek

THE ZOOOOO
PLAY. CHANGE. GROW.

Sie  works

5

FINANCIAL

SUSTAINABILITY

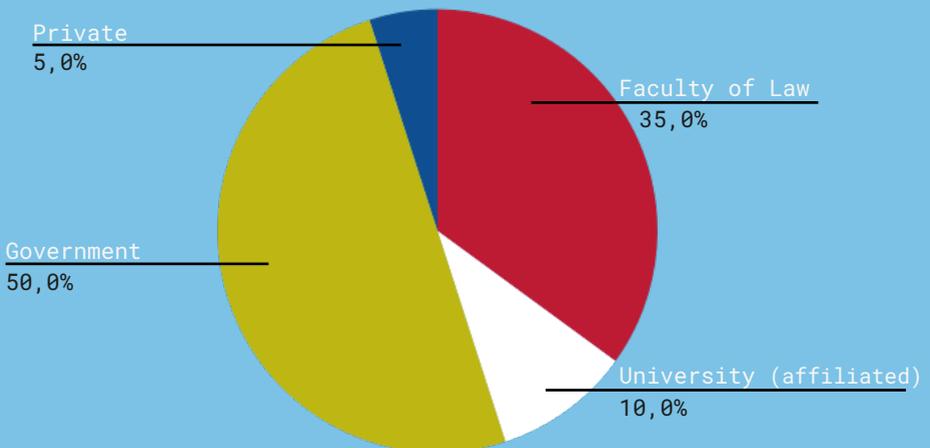
The Amsterdam Law Hub is generously supported by the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam. As we are still in the development stage of our initiative, we are also increasingly seeking external financial support to sustain our (growing) activities. In 2021, we were very glad to have received financial support from the Raad voor Rechtsbijstand, Gemeente Amsterdam, Start-upAmsterdam, IXA, the Amsterdam University Fund and Uber. In previous years, we had also received support from Nauta Duthil and ARAG.

Our total external funding revenue (corrected for 2021 activities only) was 395.000 EUR. This includes funding from:

- private partners
- government partners
- University partners outside of the Faculty of Law

The Amsterdam Law Hub intends to get at least 50% of its revenue from sources outside of the University of Amsterdam. We have met this target in 2021 and continue to develop our business model in the years to come to include not only Government subsidies but also individual contributions for membership and professional educational courses.

LAW HUB REVENUE SOURCES



**WANT TO
CO-CREATE
WITH US
FOR JUSTICE?**

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