

International Law Research Projects Win ERC Starting Grant and Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research Grant

Cedric Ryngaert, since 2007 attached to Utrecht University's faculty of Law, Economics and Governance, 2012 laureate of the Henri Rolin award for international law and currently senior lecturer in international public law, has seen two major new successes.

VIDI grant

In May 2013, Cedric Ryngaert received a € 800,000 VIDI grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), which allowed him to set up his own research team. He will be conducting his research project with the support of three junior researchers.

The title of Ryngaert's research project is: 'Unilateralism and the protection of global interests: opportunities and limits of the exercise of state jurisdiction.' Cooperation between the community of states is often flawed when it comes to protecting our climate and primary forests, ensuring safe working conditions at sea, limiting negative impacts of corporate activities on human rights, or containing undesirable Internet activities. Ryngaert will strive to identify the conditions under which one or more states (and the European Union in particular) can unilaterally safeguard these 'global interests' by applying their own legislation. To what extent do these states have the right or indeed the obligation to protect the various interests mentioned above, and to what extent would such unilateral action infringe upon the sovereignty of other states?

NWO's VIDI grant aims to support excellent researchers who after obtaining their PhD have conducted successful research, bringing them into the top ten to twenty per cent in their field. Selection criteria are the researcher's quality, the innovative nature of the research, the expected academic impact of the proposal, and knowledge utilisation. In 2012, 432 researchers submitted a VIDI application, 86 of which were successful.

ERC Starting Grant

In August 2013, Cedric Ryngaert won a prestigious ERC Starting Grant for his study on unilateralism and the safeguarding of global interests. He received € 1.34 million from the European Research Council (ERC) in support of his research on unilateralism and the safeguarding of global interests.

Through its system of ERC Grants, the European Union allocates a substantial budget for innovative research initiated by outstanding researchers. These five-year personal grants are awarded to talented individuals pursuing exceptional and ground-breaking avenues of research. The research project being conducted by legal expert Ryngaert closely reflects two of Utrecht University's four strategic themes: Institutions and Sustainability. ¶