

ID-DRITT AUTHOR GUIDELINES

ID-DRITT

1. Aim of the Journal

'Id-Dritt' is an established peer-reviewed law journal published exclusively by Għaqda Studenti tal-Liġi (GHSL), the Malta Law Students' Society (also referred to here as 'the publisher'), and is the oldest journal of its kind still in issue in Malta. It is considered to be an authoritative commentary on current issues in Maltese legal publications, including the several important, far-reaching, and sometimes radical legislative amendments that have taken place through time. The journal contains concise, accessible articles which explore and analyse significant issues and developments in Maltese, European, and international law.

The Editorial Board of 'Id-Dritt' invites submissions of unsolicited contributions by academics, researchers, law graduates, and legal professionals following the customary Call for Submissions circulated amongst local legal professionals. Contributors must as a minimum possess a Bachelor's degree or equivalent and submit a contribution on a legal subject.

2. Contact Details

Manuscripts should be submitted to <publications@ghsl.org>.

3. Submission Guidelines

- 3.1. An article title should be concise, with a maximum of 70 characters.
- 3.2. Contributions must be submitted in Microsoft Word-compatible format with the title of the contribution appearing on the first page. Contributions sent in any other format will be resent to the contributor/s concerned for amendment.
- 3.3. Authors are also required to forward a covering letter which must include all the following information:
 - 3.3.1. A succinct summary of the contribution;
 - 3.3.2. An updated and brief biographical note, including current affiliation, to be included in the published version of the article;
 - 3.3.3. Contact information (including email address and phone number); and
 - 3.3.4. Word count (excluding footnotes).
- 3.4. Authors are advised to refrain from including personal details that might, completely or otherwise, disclose their own identity (including name and/or affiliation) or that of any co-authors. Such details must be completely excluded from the contribution itself, including redaction of any identification or information in headers and/or footnotes.
- 3.5. Authors must identify any organisations that provided funding for the research or writing of the contribution, as well as any personal or family financial interests that might be pertinent. The Editorial Board's offer for publication is contingent upon the authors' compliance with this conflict-of-interest policy.
- 3.6. Articles may be submitted either in the English language or in the Maltese language. Contributions in other languages will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Manuscripts should be written in standard English. Preference is given to the Oxford English Dictionary, save in the case of quotations where original spelling should be maintained. In the case of quotations in Maltese, Maltese characters should be added where absent in the original quote. If the complete article is written by an American author, US spelling may also be used.

- 3.7. Manuscripts will be returned to the author if the English is below standard. In case of doubt about the correct use of the English language, authors are advised to have their text checked by a native speaker before submitting it.
- 3.8. The word count for all contributions is strictly between 6,000 and 8,000 words (excluding footnotes). Longer contributions will be individually considered taking into account the subject matter of the contribution.
- 3.9. Heading levels should be clearly indicated and numbered.
- 3.10. Special attention should be paid to quotations, footnotes, and references. All citations and quotations must be verified before submission of the manuscript. The accuracy of the contribution is the responsibility of the author, subject to the peer review process undertaken by the Editorial Board.
- 3.11. The journal has adopted the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) (4th edn, Hart 2012) and its formal adaptation for Maltese legal sources to ensure uniformity. Citations should not appear in the text but in the footnotes. Footnotes should be numbered consecutively, using the footnote function in Word so that if any footnotes are added or deleted the others are automatically renumbered. The Maltese adaptation of OSCOLA can be found here: <<https://ghsl.org/oscola-guidelines>>.

4. Review Process

- 4.1. Manuscripts will be reviewed by the Board of Editors and will either be returned to the author with proposed revisions or be confirmed. Any proposed revisions will be made using the 'track changes' function in Microsoft Word.
- 4.2. This review process will include a process of source citation, during which editors ensure every claim in the contribution is fully and accurately supported and that each footnote conforms to Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th edition, Hart 2012 and its adaptation for Maltese legal sources.
- 4.3. Following confirmation of any proposed revisions, the contribution will be reviewed by a peer reviewer competent in the respective subject matter and independent of GhSL. Should the need for a secondary opinion arise, the contribution shall also be reviewed by a second peer reviewer. During this process, the identity of the author shall not be disclosed. Likewise, at no stage is the identity of the peer reviewer/s taking cognizance of the contribution, revealed to the author/s.
- 4.4. Peer reviewers will send their feedback in relation to the contribution, as well as its recommendations as to the merit of publication or otherwise, to the Publications Officer. Such feedback shall be communicated to the respective author without disclosing the reviewer/s' identity.
- 4.5. Following confirmation at the peer review stage, the article will be reviewed for a final time before being finalised for publication.

5. Copyright

- 5.1. Publication in the journal is subject to authors signing the publisher's Rights and Permissions Policy, available at <<https://ghsl.org/id-dritt-permissions-policy>>. By signing this Policy, authors warrant and represent that their contribution does not contain infringing, libellous, obscene or other unlawful matter. Authors also warrant that the contribution is original and unpublished.
- 5.2. Authors are allowed to post their articles on public websites such as SSRN subject to the conditions set in our Rights and Permissions Policy. In this Policy you can also find which other rights remain reserved to the author.
- 5.3. The author shall receive for the rights granted a free copy of the issue of the journal in which the article is published together with a PDF file containing the digital offprint of their article.

6. Withdrawal Policy

- 6.1. Authors wishing to withdraw their contribution from publication are required to inform the Editorial Board within three (3) months from submission.
- 6.2. If any request for withdrawal occurs after such period, the publication or non-publication of the contribution lies at the discretion of the Board.

7. Rejection

- 7.1. A letter of rejection will be sent to authors who fail to comply with the editorial policy or in the event that the contribution is considered to be subpar following the peer review.
- 7.2. Moreover, the Editorial Board may also reject any contribution at any time during the review process if it deems the contribution unsuitable and not in accordance with the publishing standards issued by the Board.
- 7.3. The Publisher has the right to refrain from publication if in its opinion, the form or content of the Contribution does not conform to what had been agreed or might reasonably have been expected. In this event the Publisher will assign the entire copyright of the Contribution back to the Author, and the Contribution shall be returned to the Author by the Publisher.

These Guidelines last updated May 2023.