

**Masaryk University Faculty of Law Directive No. 1/2023**

**Student Scientific Activities (SVOČ)**  
**Announcement of the XXVIth year of the competition for the**  
**academic year 2023/2024**

*(as amended with effect from 20 October 2023)*

*Pursuant to Section 28(1) of Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Other Acts (Act on Higher Education Institutions), as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Higher Education Institutions"), I issue this Directive:*

**Article 1**

The competition is open to students of bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programmes of the Faculty of Law of MU (hereinafter referred to as "the Faculty"), either as individuals or in teams, who are authors of an original professional work in the field of law (hereinafter referred to as "authors" and "competition work"). The competition work may also cover subjects close to law (e.g. economics, sociology), provided that its focus remains law.

**Article 2**

- (1) The competition entries must be an original text written by the author(s) independently.
- (2) A qualifying thesis (bachelor's thesis, diploma thesis, rigorous thesis, doctoral thesis, or thesis submitted in another competition), even a part of it, may not be used as a

competition thesis. An exception is a seminar paper, which may be the basis for a competition paper without restriction.

- (3) The submission of a competition paper does not preclude its previous full or partial publication or its use as an oral or written contribution at a professional conference or seminar.
- (4) The competition thesis can then be used as the basis for a bachelor's, master's, rigorous or dissertation thesis.
- (5) The author of a competition entry, either as a single author or as a member of a competition team, may submit more than one entry, provided that the topics of the two or more entries are substantially different.

### **Article 3**

- (1) The theme of the competition is determined by the author(s) in accordance with Article 1 of this Directive.
- (2) The departments and institutes (hereinafter referred to as "departments") of the faculty will offer topics to interested authors, for which they will then provide consultations to the authors. By mutual agreement, topics may also be listed by members of departments and students of doctoral programmes for a specific interested party. An individual topic may be announced after the publication of the offered topics, in which case the department member or author(s) will communicate the choice of the topic to the JRC coordinator by e-mail [svoc@law.muni.cz](mailto:svoc@law.muni.cz).
- (3) Other subjects or institutions outside the Faculty may also offer themes for the competition. However, they are not obliged to provide consultations on them. The author(s) can check the possibility of consultation with these entities or institutions or arrange it through the SVOČ coordinator. Entities or institutions outside the Faculty may award special prizes for the work.

### **Article 4**

- (1) Authors apply for participation in the SVOČ by registering the course BVV10K (students of bachelor study programmes), MVV42K (students of master study programmes) or DSVOCK (students of doctoral study programmes) in the IS MU. The deadline for registration is governed by the Spring 2024 timetable.
- (2) In the respective course, the author will register the topic in the topic package called "SVOČ topic registration" via the "Student timetables" application. In the case of the topic of the competition team's thesis, all members of the competition team will subscribe to one topic.
- (3) Authors who register for this course and do not submit a competition entry will be withdrawn from the course after the submission deadline, even without their own request.
- (4) The condition for successful completion of the course and obtaining credits is not only the proper submission of the competition paper, but also participation in the oral round of the SVOČ.

### **Article 5**

- (1) Entries must be submitted to the submission office of the relevant course (BVV10K, MVV42K or DSVOCK) no later than 3 March 2024. No entry will be accepted after this

date. In the case of a competition team, the work is submitted and entered into the IS MU only once.

- (2) In preparing the competition thesis, the student follows formally the Dean's guidelines 2/2022 and 3/2020. Submission of a printed version of the thesis including a signed affidavit is not required. If the thesis does not meet the formal requirements, it may be eliminated from the competition in consultation with the JRC Coordinator and the Vice Dean for Science and Research (hereafter referred to as the "Vice Dean").
- (3) The specified length of the work is between 36 000 characters and 54 000 characters including spaces. Footnotes are included in the total length of the work. The number of characters does not include the title page, the table of contents and the list of references. If the work does not meet the required length, it will be eliminated from the competition.

#### **Article 6**

The competition will be held in sections, which will be formed according to the number and content of the submitted works. The formation of the sections will be decided by 11 March 2024 by the JOCC Coordinator in agreement with the Vice-Dean, taking into account the study programme of the competitors, the content of the submitted works (individual law fields) or the study classification of the competitors (study year), or other appropriate criteria, so that each section includes no more than 12 works. The placement of individual papers in the sections is decided by the SVOČ coordinator in agreement with the vice-dean.

#### Article 7

- (1) Each competition entry will be subject to an opponent's review after proper submission. The review is prepared by a member of the department appointed by the head of the department, whose expertise corresponds to the topic of the thesis. For themes announced by entities or institutions outside the faculty, the opponent is appointed by the SVOČ coordinator in agreement with the vice-dean.
- (2) One opponent is usually appointed for each competition entry. The referee will insert his/her opinion on the JRC work in the submission room of the relevant subject or send it in electronic form to the JRC coordinator at [svoc@law.muni.cz](mailto:svoc@law.muni.cz) no later than 14 April 2024.
- (3) The assessment shall contain the following elements, including the scoring:
  - Evaluation of the topic in terms of its relevance and practical applicability (0-8 points);
  - Evaluation of the concept of the competition paper (systematics, logical structure, method used, sources) (0-12 points);
  - Content evaluation (substantive comments on the text, confrontation with other possible opinions, overall mastery of the topic, evaluation of the conclusions of the paper, suggestions for discussion in the oral round) (0-20 points);
  - Evaluation of the formal aspect of the competition work (language level, clarity, technical mastery of the text) (0-10 points);
  - Overall brief summary evaluation of the competition work.
- (4) The referee must use the template provided in Annex 1 of this guideline when writing the report.

#### Article 8

- (1) The oral round takes place in the presence of all authors (or competition teams) and an evaluation committee appointed on the proposal of the SVOČ coordinator by the vice-dean from among the faculty teachers proposed by the heads of the departments. The evaluation committees for each section shall consist of at least three members. The committee may meet and make decisions only in the presence of an absolute majority of its members. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members. Representatives of the entities or institutions that have announced the competition topics that have been developed and included in the competition will also be invited to participate and evaluate with an advisory vote as honorary members. The Commission decides by majority vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman's vote will be decisive.
- (2) The date and form of the oral round is announced by the SVOČ coordinator in agreement with the vice-dean. The oral round can take place in person or remotely (MS Teams environment).
- (3) The author (or the competition team) presents their competition work and responds to the comments in the review. This is followed by a discussion in which questions are asked and comments are applied from anyone present (especially committee members and other competing authors, or other teachers and students present).
- (4) In the oral round, the following are primarily evaluated:
  - General overview and mastery of the issues;

- How the author (or the competition team) dealt with the comments made both in the review and in the oral round;
- The way he responded to the questions raised;
- Formality of oral expression (clarity and linguistic quality of expression).

#### **Article 9**

- (1) Immediately after the oral round, the committee will evaluate the results of the competition. The committee will select the best entries; in doing so, it will determine their order. It takes into account both the evaluation of the competition work by the opponent and the presentation in the oral round. The number of best entries thus determined shall normally be no more than four per section in the case of two sections, and no more than three per section in the case of three or more sections. Exceptionally, the Commission may select two entries for one place (split place); if it does so, it must duly justify its decision.
- (2) The authors (or competition teams) of the works selected according to the previous paragraph will be rewarded in the individual sections (each separately) with the award of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of MU in the form of a one-off scholarship in the amount of CZK 9,000 for the first place in a given section, CZK 7,000 for the second place and CZK 5,000 for the third or fourth place according to Article 9, paragraph 1, penultimate sentence. In the event of a tie, the amount of the one-off scholarship shall be divided equally. If the prize is awarded to a competition team, the prize is divided equally between the co-authors. It is a condition for the award of the scholarship that the author is enrolled as a student at the faculty at the time of the award.
- (3) In addition to the Dean's Prize, competition entries may be awarded special prizes if such prizes are announced by entities or institutions outside the Faculty. The awarding of the special prize shall not be decided by the committee referred to in Article 9(1), but by the body or institution which has announced the special prize. Cumulating a special prize with a dean's prize is permissible. A special prize may also be awarded to the author of a competition entry which has not been selected by the committee referred to in Article 9(1).

#### **Article 10**

- (1) The selection of the works advancing to the Czechoslovak Student Scientific Competition (hereinafter referred to as the "interfaculty round") is made by the SVOČ coordinator in agreement with the vice-dean, taking into account the results of the competition according to paragraph 9(1), and according to the content focus of the sections of the interfaculty round.
- (2) Only authors who are enrolled as students in the study programme at the faculty at the time of the competition may participate in the interfaculty competition. The condition for the award of the scholarship in case of success in the interfaculty round is that the author is enrolled as a student of the study programme at the faculty at the time of its award.

#### **Article 11**

The Vice-Dean may, if necessary, establish, after discussion in the College of the Dean of the Faculty, other rules of a technical nature, the need for which may arise during the competition and which will be necessary for its proper and smooth course (see in particular Article 6 on the organisation of sections).

#### Article 12

(1) The practical implementation of these guidelines is the responsibility of the JRC Coordinator and the Science, Research and Project Support Unit. The Vice-Dean for Science and Research is responsible for updating and monitoring this Directive.

(2) The Directive shall enter into force on 20 October 2023.

Annex: No. 1 - Opinion of the opponent of the thesis SVOČ 2023/2024

In Brno, 19 October 2023

Martin Škop  
Dean

Translated with DeepL-Translator.

**Annex No. 1 to** Directive No. 1/2023 of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University

**Opinion of the opponent of the thesis SVOČ 2023/2024**

AUTHOR OF THE PAPER:

TITLE OF WORK:

THE REPORT WAS PREPARED BY:

THE PLACE AND DATE OF THE REPORT:

(note: the following structure of the report is based on Article 7(3) of the Directive of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University No. 1/2023)

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**1. Evaluation of the topic in terms of its topicality, practical applicability (0 - 8 points)**

Please insert text here.

**XY**  
points/points

**2. Evaluation of the conception of the competition work - systematics, logical structure, methods used, sources (0 - 12 points)**

Please insert text here.

**XY**  
points/points

**3. Content evaluation - substantive comments on the text, confrontation with other possible opinions, overall mastery of the topic, evaluation of the conclusions of the work, suggestions for discussion in the oral round (0 - 20 points)**

Please insert text here.

**XY**  
points/points

**4. Evaluation of the formal aspect of the competition work - language level, clarity, graphic design and technical mastery of the text, citations (0 - 10 points)**

**XY**  
points/points

Please insert text here.

**5. Brief summary evaluation of the competition work**

Please insert text here.