



FACULTEIT RECHTSGELEERDHEID



**Study day on the Informal Economy**  
***“The economic crisis and the informal economy in Europe”***  
**Ghent University – September 6, 2012**

**INTRODUCTION**

The notion of the informal economy highly appeals to one’s imagination, partly due to its vagueness and comprehensiveness. The major aim of this study day is to offer more insights into the phenomenon of the informal economy and its current manifestations throughout Europe. Given the high pertinence, the relations between the informal economy and the economic crisis are equally scrutinized. Questions such as ‘what is the informal economy?’, ‘what is the importance of the informal economy?’, ‘how can we understand this phenomenon?’, ‘what is the relation between the informal economy and the economic climate?’ have a central position during this study day. Two major approaches are combined: an academic approach with contributions of different European academics and a field/experience approach with contributions of Belgian experts in the field.

After a general introduction on the informal economy in Belgium, its manifestations in practice are unfolded. More specifically, practitioners share their experiences and expertise related to (informal) activities in the sectors seasonal work and sex work. In addition, special attention will be given to the policy related to different forms of informality. The afternoon sessions focus on the international perspective, by analysing the informal economy in different sectors in varying countries.

**DATE**

September 6, 2012.

**VENUE**

The study day will take place at Ghent University, Faculty of Law, Universiteitstraat 4, 9000 Gent, aud.C (see map below).

**PRICE**

Registration for the study day is **free**. Please register before **August 23** by sending an email to [dominique.boels@ugent.be](mailto:dominique.boels@ugent.be) mentioning ‘Registration study day informal economy’ in the subject, and your name, function and institute in the email.



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## PROGRAM

### Morning session:

9u – 9u10: Welcome by prof. dr. **Joanna Shapland** (University of Sheffield) – chair of the study day.

9u10-9u30: Presentation of prof. dr. **Jozef Pacolet** (KUL – Hiva) *“Informal economy and the present economic crisis in Europe: is there an influence?”*

9u30 – 9u40: questions & discussion

9u40 – 10u00: Presentation of **Karin Loos** (Public Prosecutor) *“Informal employment in the fruit-growing in Limburg: an analysis by the Public Prosecutor”*

10u00 – 10u10: questions & discussion

*10u10-10u30: coffee break*

10u30 – 10u50: Presentation of **Wim Bontinck** (central cell of human trafficking of the federal police) *“Prostitution: a booming business?”*

10u50 – 11u10: Presentation of **Herlinde Janssens** PAG-ASA (ngo) on the informal economy within sex work (victim perspective) *“PAG-ASA specialised centre in guidance of victims of human trade”*.

11u10 – 11u40: questions and discussion

11u40- 12u: Presentation of **Bart Stalpaert** (Advisor of the Belgian Minister of Finance) *“Fighting fraud together works?”*

12u – 12u10: questions and discussion

12u10 – 12u30: reflection on morning session by chair prof. dr. Joanna Shapland

### Afternoon session:

13u30 – 13u50: Presentation of prof. dr. **Effie Lambropoulou** (University of Athens) *“Illegal markets in a collapsing economy”*

13u50 – 14u: questions and discussion



FACULTEIT RECHTSGELEERDHEID



14u – 14u20: Presentation of prof. dr. **Nina Persak** (Universiteit Gent) *“Prostitution in times of economic crisis: effects, human agency and societal responses”*.

14u20- 14u30: questions and discussion

14u30 – 14u50: Presentation of dr. **Noel Klima** *“Informal economy in Belgium’s hotel and catering sector – survival strategy and crime risk”*

14u50 – 15u: questions and discussion

*15u – 15u30: coffee break*

15u30 – 15u50: Presentation of drs. **Edward Van Asch** (University of Sheffield) *“Transnational Organized Crime and the Illegal Wildlife Trade”*

15u50 – 16u: questions and discussion

16u – 16u30: reflection on presentations and general conclusion by chair prof. dr. Joanna Shapland.

**ADDENDUM:** Map of the faculty → **Aud C = 3**

