



ERC EVALUATION REPORT

Stage 1

Call reference	ERC-2007-StG
Funding scheme	ERC Starting Grant
Panel name	Information and communication
Proposal No.	210058-1
Proposal Short Name	ICSLAW
Title	The Intersection Between Computer Science and Law: Applications to Agents and Ontologies

PANEL MARKS

1. Principal Investigator: Potential to perform world class research Quality of research output: Has the Principal Investigator published in high quality peer reviewed journals or the equivalent? To what extent are these publications ground-breaking and demonstrative of independent creative thinking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art? Intellectual capacity and creativity: To what extent does the Principal Investigator's record of research, collaborations, project conception, supervision of students and publications demonstrate that he/she is able to confront major research challenges in the field, and to initiate new productive lines of thinking?	4 / 5
2. Quality of the proposed research project Ground-breaking nature of the research: Does the proposed research address important challenges in the field(s) addressed? Does it have suitably ambitious objectives, which go substantially beyond the current state of the art (e.g. including trans-disciplinary developments and novel or unconventional approaches)? Potential impact: Does the research open new and important scientific, technological or scholarly horizons? Methodology: Is the outlined scientific approach (including the activities to be undertaken by the individual team members) feasible?	3,33 / 5
Total mark	7,33 / 10
Has the proposal passed the threshold (8/10)?	No

PANEL COMMENTS

This evaluation report contains the final marks awarded to the proposal by the ERC review panel in its meeting in June 2007. The panel bases its appraisal on prior individual reviews conducted by panel members and panel evaluators. The comments of these individual reviews are reproduced below.

It was noted by the panel that one reviewer did not write complete comments. The proposal was therefore discussed in more detail by the panel. In view of this discussion, and after reviewing all the available assessments, the panel, while not necessarily subscribing to each and every opinion expressed, finds that in their totality they provide a fair assessment, indicating essential weaknesses in the proposal. The panel has therefore decided to award the marks as given above. The proposal will not be retained for the second stage of the review.



REVIEWER COMMENTS

REVIEWER 1

1. Potential of the principal investigator

Proposal evaluated: no particular comment on this aspect.

2. Quality of the proposed research project

Abstract lacks clear research objectives. Why is the application of concepts from the field of human Law appropriate to regulate the behaviour of multi-agent systems? In other words, what are the properties of multi-agent behavioural problems that require the application of human laws? What aspects of the laws are appropriate for solving the problem? While the explanations given are attractive, they do not address the core of the problem. In other words, what is the evidence for the statement: "For interaction with groups of autonomous systems, this idea of autonomous systems as independent decision makers is no longer sufficient and organizational structures like legal electronic institutions must be considered". The proposal lacks external references (for state of the art). The journal "AI in Law" indicates an established field in the area. It is difficult to follow the arguments for the proposed methodology given the lack of comparison with existing methods.

REVIEWER 2

1. Potential of the principal investigator

The CV and self evaluation has demonstrated the intellectual capacity and creativity of the PI for independent and original search. This judgement is based on his publication in high quality peer reviewed journals, organisation of various conferences, and collaboration with several universities in Europe. He has also started to attract funding to his projects, though most of them are internally funded.

2. Quality of the proposed research project

The proposed project is interdisciplinary between Law and Computer Science. The proposal is well articulated and addresses all the necessary points which include the current state of the art, open problems, research questions to be answered, and expected impact. It is apparent that the PI is perfectly positioned to lead the proposed research due to his interdisciplinary background. The proposed methodologies appear to be sound and convincing, the assembled team appear to be strong with the required scientific expertise, thereby giving confidence of its success.

REVIEWER 3

1. Potential of the principal investigator

High impact publication record.

2. Quality of the proposed research project

interesting project, coupling law and computing