

NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING VOOR VERVOERRECHT

RULES MASTER THESIS PRIZE¹

(lastly adopted by the board of the *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vervoerrecht* (Dutch Transport Law Association) on 15 March 2022)

1. Objective

- 1.1. The *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vervoerrecht* (NVV) has the following objective: (a) the promotion of the interest in and the quality of public and private transport law, regarding all modes of transport, including but not limited to the sea, inland waters, road, air, rail and pipeline, and related areas of law, also including but not limited to the construction of means of transport, traffic infrastructure, insurance, finance, offshore, and marine contracting, and also contributing to the unification of law in this area; (b) performing and promoting everything connected to the aforesaid in the broadest sense and everything that is necessary or desired in the interest of its members, all in the broadest sense.
- 1.2. The objective of awarding the NVV master thesis prize ('the Prize') is promoting the writing of high quality master theses in the area of transport law and putting its authors in the spotlight.

2. Conditions for participation

- 2.1. The participant is the author or one of the authors of a master thesis ('Thesis') which is written in the course of graduating from a master programme at a Dutch university or Dutch institution of higher professional education.
- 2.2. The participant is not a member of the board of the NVV, a member of the panel of judges of the Prize, or related to any of them by consanguinity or affinity.
- 2.3. The Thesis is an original work of legal research that is focussed on transport law as described under 1.1.
- 2.4. The Thesis is written in the Dutch or English language.
- 2.5. The Thesis has at least 8000 and no more than 25.000 words, excluding text in indices, references and notes. Each page must be numbered. The notes must be footnotes.
- 2.6. The Thesis is graded 8 or higher (on a scale from 1 to 10) by the Dutch university or Dutch institution of higher professional education.
- 2.7. The Thesis is completed in the period of twelve months prior to the closing date for submission, being 1 January of the calendar year in which the Prize is awarded.

3. Submission

- 3.1. The Thesis shall be submitted by the author or one of the authors him/herself.
- 3.2. The submission shall be made via the secretary of the NVV (contact details to be found on the website of the NVV: <https://www.vervoerrecht.nl/contact>) by sending the Thesis together with evidence of the grading by the Dutch university or Dutch institution of higher professional education.

¹ This is a translation from the Dutch original text. The Dutch text shall prevail in case of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the Dutch text and its English translation.

- 3.3. The submission shall be made prior to the 1 January of the calendar year in which the Prize is to be awarded that is competed for.

4. Panel of judges

- 4.1. The panel of judges consists of at least three persons appointed and dismissed by the board of the NVV.
- 4.2. The panel of judges shall assess the master theses on the basis of the criteria set out in these rules.
- 4.3. The panel of judges may have itself advised or assisted by one or more advisers if the subject matter or the number of master theses submitted gives cause to do so.
- 4.4. The advisers use the same assessment criteria as the panel of judges. The advisers have no vote in the decision to award the Prize.
- 4.5. The names and capacities of the advisers is not disclosed except in case a Thesis assessed by an adviser is awarded the Prize.
- 4.6. The panel of judges ensures that the assessment is made with integrity, taking into account *inter alia* any involvement of one or more members of the panel of judges or advisers in the creation of the Thesis. In case of justified concerns about the integrity of the assessment, or about such involvement, the member of the panel of judges or the adviser in question may be replaced by the board of the NVV on the recommendation of any member of the panel of judges.
- 4.7. If and to the extent that none of the master theses submitted meet the assessment criteria applied by the panel of judges, the Prize will not be awarded in that year.
- 4.8. If the author refuses the Prize, the panel of judges will decide whether or not another thesis qualifies for the Prize.
- 4.9. The decision by the panel of judges on awarding the Prize is binding. There is no appeal against the decision.

5. Assessment criteria

The panel of judges shall assess the theses on the basis of the following criteria in particular:

Originality: the extent to which the subject matter and the question(s) or conclusion(s) of the thesis show scientifically sound originality, and a perspective and opinions of the author him/herself.

Practical applicability: the extent to which the subject and the opinions, views and proposed solutions described in the thesis are of practical importance to the world of transport, in such a way that their conversion into policy, case law and/or regulations is possible.

Accessibility: the extent to which the author treats the subject in a readable and comprehensible manner

Legal depth: the extent to which the author has sufficiently elaborated the subject and the extent to which this converts to the level of difficulty of the subject dealt with.

Legal expertise: the extent to which the author demonstrates a legal expertise of the subject matter and in the underlying international and Dutch law and - in so far as comparative law is involved - in the relevant foreign law.

Academic value: the extent to which the thesis enriches jurisprudence by its content, classification, discussion of case law and literature, as well as the conclusions drawn by the author, in such a way that the author or third parties can subsequently delve further into the subject in an academic manner.

Legal completeness: the degree of completeness of case law and literature research in relation to the subject matter, measured in terms of both the subject of transport law dealt with and the general areas of law on which it is based.

Comparative law: the extent to which comparative legal research has been conducted, to what degree and with what result, as well as the extent to which the legal comparison contributes to the finding of Dutch law. Because not every subject is suitable for a comparative law study, this criterion will only be included as a decisive criterion in the assessment by the panel of judges if two or more writers finish *ex aequo* in the assessment of the criteria mentioned above.

6. The Prize

- 6.1. The Prize is awarded once a year.
- 6.2. The award ceremony will take place at a day, hour and place to be determined by the NVV.
- 6.3. The winner will receive an amount of EUR 2000.- (two thousand euros).
- 6.4. The winning Thesis will be published on the NVV website.

7. Revocation of the Prize

- 7.1. If, once the Prize has been awarded, it becomes apparent that the winning Thesis is not (in whole or in part) an original work of the author(s), or has been created by fraud, plagiarism or any other irregular manner, the panel of judges may revoke the awarding of the Prize. The secretary of the NVV will notify the author(s) who submitted the Thesis of such intention of the panel of judges, stating the reason(s).
- 7.2. The author who is informed of the intention of the panel of judges referred to under 7.1 will have fourteen days after receipt of that notification to respond in writing to the secretary of the NVV. After receiving a response from the author, or – if no response is received – three weeks after sending the notification of the intention referred to under 7.1, the panel of judges will make its decision. If the panel of judges revokes the awarding of the Prize, the author is obliged to return or refund the Prize tot the NVV.
- 7.3. The decision of the panel of judges to revoke the awarding of the Prize may be made public.

8. Copyright and Personal Data

- 8.1. By submitting a Thesis the author declares he is willing and entitled, for him/herself and for possible co-authors, to grant the right and so grants the right to the NVV to publish the submitted Thesis on the NVV website.
- 8.2. By submitting a Thesis the author declares he is willing and entitled, for him/herself and for possible co-authors, to grant the right and so grants the right to the NVV and to the panel of judges of the Prize to process the personal data necessary for dealing with the submission of the Thesis and forwarding it to the panel of judges of the Prize,

for having the Thesis assessed by the panel of judges of the Prize, for publishing the Thesis on the NVV website, and for making the necessary public announcements.

- 8.3. Authors who submit a Thesis shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the NVV and the panel of judges of the Prize from any third party claims based on infringement of third party intellectual property rights, including but not limited to copyrights, connected to publication of the submitted Thesis, as well as for third party claims for the unlawful processing of personal data.

9. Adoption and Amendment of the Rules

- 9.1. The rules were adopted at the meeting of the board of the NVV on 15 March 2022
- 9.2. The rules may only be amended by the board of the NVV.