

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2017



Rationality and creativity rely on doubt and dissidence, on the challenging and questioning of mainstream beliefs.
— Georges Haddad

Thank you for your support and co-operation throughout the past year.
We wish you peaceful and prosperous year 2017.

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

The **Kelso Professorship** is looking back on a strenuous, but successful year, above all a year highlighted by our strategic co-operation with the **Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**. After joining the partnership in 2014 and the successful German-French summer school held on the island of Procida in 2015, we were invited by the new president of the Sorbonne, Georges Haddad, to present the Inter-University Centre in Paris.

At a meeting with Viadrina's president Alexander Wöll and the two university teams for international co-operation (see the photo above, from left to right: Anne Gräfe, Nicolas Hubé, Petra Weber, Abdoulaye Séne, Jens Lowitzsch, Andrea Allerkamp, Héloïse Nétange, Timm Beichelt, Georges Haddad and Alexander Wöll) projects were launched.

Subsequently, Prof. Lowitzsch taught three courses at the faculty of law as **visiting professor at the Institut de Recherche Juridique de la Sorbonne**. In addition to presenting a legislative proposal for a common regime of employee financial participation ("Régime commun européen sur la participation financière des salaires") and the new "prosumer approach" to financing renewable energies, the introduc-

tion of an obligation of sustainability into property law ("Pour une fonction de durabilité dérivée de la fonction sociale de la propriété", publication forthcoming in February) was in the focus.

The latter topic goes back to research on a ban on externalisation and is the backbone of an interdisciplinary international research project launched in summer 2016 entitled "**Property rights, globalisation and the social function of property**" with the Sorbonne as main partner. In December, Prof. Lowitzsch was elected to the scientific advisory board of the French-German University (DFH/UFA).

Our research on **Consumer Stock Ownership Plans (CSOPs)** continues to focus on plans which enable consumers to acquire an ownership stake in utilities, particularly in the context of the Energy Transition and water purification.

Furthermore, the project "Raising employees' involvement in the company's financial management and economic performance" with key social partners from the three Baltic republics continues with an EU-funded project, entitled "Employee involvement and **employee financial participation** in undertakings".

Another research area deals with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Industry 4.0. At the public hearing of the Committee on

Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament on "Employee financial participation in the age of digitalisation", Prof. Lowitzsch presented the topic "**Automation, digital revolution and capital concentration**". He also spoke at the XXVI Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdrój, Poland, on its implications for society; his talk was entitled "**Leisure, the basis of culture – Can robots help?**".

Finally, in November 2016, the Inter-University Centre co-organised an "**Employee share ownership workshop**" in Berlin with the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School and the University of Oslo's Centre for the Study of Equality, Social Organization and Performance. We welcomed international contributors, among them Richard B. Freeman who holds the Ascherman Chair in Economics at Harvard University.

We look forward to continuing existing co-operation and taking new opportunities.

To stay in touch, you can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#) and [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr iur. Jens Lowitzsch and the Kelso Professorship team