

# BECCLE

BERGEN CENTER FOR COMPETITION LAW AND ECONOMICS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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BECCLE has completed its eleventh whole calendar year as an independent research center in competition law and economics. Bergen Center for Competition Law and Economics was established in 2011, and it is a center jointly owned by the Norwegian School of Economics and the University of Bergen.

The idea to establish a center was initiated in 2010 by people at the University of Bergen, the Norwegian School of Economics and the Norwegian Competition Authority. A committee submitted two applications to the rectors at the University of Bergen and the Norwegian School of Economics, one in [October 2010](#) and one in [January 2011](#). In May and June 2011 the boards at the University of Bergen and the Norwegian School of Economics decided to establish such a joint center.

BECCLE is a meeting place for economists and lawyers interested in competition policy questions. The center is not only nationally oriented, but also gathers researchers and practitioners across the world. In 2012 BECCLE joined a European network of research institutions with a similar focus: [CLEEN](#) (Competition Law and Economics European Network).

BECCLE has since August 2013 been physically located at Jekteviksbakken 31, Bergen. This means that we are co-located with the Faculty of Law at University of Bergen (at the JUSS II building).



Due to COVID-19, the activity was low in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, however, the center has returned to a normal activity level.

### News in 2023 – some key figures

Some facts and figures for BECCLE in 2023 (more details in the following):

- Hosted the BECCLE conference at Faculty of Law, University of Bergen June 1-2
- Co-organized the Peder Sather Conference on Industrial Organization June 8-9
- Hosted 6 BECCLE seminars, including one half day workshop
- 6 master theses on competition policy issues received a BECCLE grant
- 7 doctoral students affiliated with BECCLE are now working on competition law and economics
- 4 professor II have been affiliated with BECCLE

### Management

In March 2022 the board appointed Professor Lars Sjørgard at the Norwegian School of Economics as the new Director for the period March 15, 2022 to June 31, 2025. The board of BECCLE consists of [Tommy Staahl Gabrielsen](#), Head of Department of Economics at University of Bergen (leader), [Ragna Aarli](#), Deputy dean for research, Faculty of Law at University of Bergen, [Kurt Brekke](#), Head of Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics and [Malin Arve](#), Vice rector for research, Norwegian School of Economics.

In addition to Lars Sjørgard, the general management consists of Associate Professor Bjørn Olav Johansen, Department of Economics, University of Bergen, Associate Professor Ingrid M. H. Barlund and Professor Ronny Gjendemsjø, both at Faculty of Law, University of Bergen.



## Professor II

In 2023 there have been four economists in Professor II positions affiliated with BECCLE, two of them through the Department of Economics at NHH and two through the Department of Economics at UoB:

- Associate Professor [Özlem Bedre-Defolie](#), European University Institute and Department of Economics at University of Bergen
- Professor Odd Rune Straume, University of Minho and Department of Economics at University of Bergen

Two of them were hired as Professor II in 2023:

- Professor Natalia Fabra, University Carlos II and Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- Professor Tommaso Valletti, Imperial College London and Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics



Natalia Fabra



Tommaso Valletti

In addition, Assistant Professor Thomas Vinje, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen and partner emeritus at Clifford Chance has been affiliated with BECCLE since 2022.

## Doctoral students

There are 7 doctoral students affiliated with BECCLE that work on competition law and economics.

- Emil Mathias Strøm Halseth, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- Marte Dahl Reisæter, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen
- Alina Ozhegova, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- Paula Navarro Sarmiento, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- John Sæten Lilletvedt, Department of Economics, University of Bergen
- Ole Kristian Dyskeland, Department of Business and Management Science, Norwegian School of Economics
- Joséphine Thorson, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen

## BECCLE conference June 1-2

This year's BECCLE conference was held at the Faculty of Law, University of Bergen. There were 2 keynote speakers:

- Professor [Natalia Fabra](#), Department of Economics at Universidad Carlos III Madrid: Reform in the European electricity market
- Professor [Heike Schweitzer](#), Faculty of Law at Humboldt University in Berlin: Ex ante vs ex post enforcement of competition law

In addition there were 2 invited sessions (with several presentations on each session):

- Competition Law & Economics and Sustainability (organized by [Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui](#) at Faculty of Law at University of Bergen)
  - [Leigh Hancher](#) (moderator), University of Tilburg
  - [Cristina Volpin](#), OECD
  - [Nicole Rosenboom](#), Oxera
  - [Anna Gerbrandy](#), Utrecht University
- Legal and Liability Standards in Antitrust Enforcement: Developments and Open Questions (organized by [Yannis Katsoulacos](#) at Athens University of Economics and Business)
  - Yannis Katsoulacos (moderator and speaker)
  - [Anne Witt](#), EDHEC Augmented Law Institute
  - [Frederic Jenny](#), ESSEC Paris Business School

Finally, there were 26 contributed papers.

In total, the conference had around 80 participants.



Heike Schweitzer



Natalia Fabra and Lars Sjørgard

## Peder Sather conference on Industrial Organization June 8-9

This is a bi-annual conference gathering researchers in Industrial Organization from the University of Bergen, the Norwegian School of Economics and the University of California, Berkeley. This year the conference was held at Norwegian School of Economics.

Speakers from UC Berkeley were Carl Shapiro, Matthew Backus, Nano Barahona, Olivia Nathan Sebastian Otero and Richard Gilbert.

Speakers from Bergen were Alina Ozhegova (NHH), Mateusz Mysliwski (NHH), Anantha Divakaruni (UoB) and Anna Ignatenko (NHH).

In addition, Julia Cage from Science Po Paris gave the talk ‘Hosting media bias: Evidence from the universe of French television and radio shows 2002-2020’.

## Seminars in 2023

### April 11:

‘[Finn/Nettbil saken: Lærdommer fra Høyesterett](#)’ with Frode Steen, NHH and Erling Hjelmeng, University of Oslo and NHH.

### May 11:

‘[Energy infrastructure in times of energy and climate emergency](#)’ with Lars Sjørgard, Ronnie Belmans from Electric Energy System at KU Leuven and Vaido Poldoja from the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

### June 14:

‘[Structural presumptions in merger control?](#)’ with Tommaso Valletti, University College London and BECCLE/NHH, Marita Skjæveland from the Norwegian Competition Authority, Beret Sundet from BAHR and Jostein Skaar from Oslo Economics.

### September 21:

‘[Norwegians oppkjøp av Widerøe](#)’ with Lars Sjørgard and Erling Hjelmeng.

### October 26:

**Half day seminar:** ‘[Mot ein sterkare offentlegrettsleg administrative handheving av konkurransereglane](#)’ with Jon Petter Rui, UoB, Tina Søreide, Director at the Norwegian Competition Authority, Elin Moen from BAHR and Vibeke Andersen from the Norwegian Ministry.

### November 21:

‘[Cultural exception? The impact of fixed book price regulation on prices and variety](#)’ with Tommaso Valletti.

In addition, two seminars were cancelled on short notice:

- Yassine Lefoulli: ‘Mergers and demand-enhancing innovation’ (May 16)
- Natalia Fabra: ‘Storage and renewable energy: friends or foe?’ (November 29)

## Members of public committees and boards

Several of the members have been active in the public debate through work in committees and as board members:

- Lars Sjørgard: Leader of the Energy Commission
- Frode Steen: Member of a committee analyzing a possible third runway on Gardermoen airport
- Kurt Brekke: Member of committee analyzing dental health
- Kurt Brekke: Member of committee analyzing prioritization in the health sector
- Ingrid Barlund: Member of the committee revising the law of financial supervision
- Halvard Haukeland Fredriksen: Member of a committee scrutinizing the last decade’s experiences with the EEA agreement
- Halvard Haukeland Fredriksen: Leader of a committee revising the law on public procurement
- Malin Arve: Member of a committee revising the law on public procurement

## Publications

### Articles 2023

Johansen, Bjørn Olav, Tommy S. Gabrielsen and Odd Rune Straume: “National Pricing with Local Quality Competition”, *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy*, 2023, 32 (1), pp.48-74.

Lotti, Clarissa, Ariade Muco, Giancarlo Spagnolo and Tommaso Valletti, “Indirect Savings from Public Procurement Centralization”, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2023.

Koltay, Gabor, Szabolcs Lorincz, Tommaso Valletti, “Concentration and Competition: Evidence From Europe and Implications For Policy”, *Journal of Competition Law & Economics*, 2023.

Genakos, Christos, Costas Roumanias, Tommaso Valletti, “Is having an expert “friend” enough? An analysis of consumer switching behavior in mobile telephony”, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2023, 213, pp. 359-372.

Halvorsen Barlund, Ingrid Margrethe, “EU Competition Law in Digital Markets – A few remarks on the interaction with the Digital Markets Act” in *Fakultetsbyggjar, vestlending og verdsborgar: Festschrift to Ernst Nordtveit*. Cappelen Damm Akademisk [2023] ISBN 9788202762773. pp. 471-488.

Brekke, Kurt R., Dag Morten Dalen, and Odd Rune Straume. “Competing with precision: incentives for developing predictive biomarker tests.” *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 126.1 (2024): 60-97.

Brekke, Kurt R., Dag Morten Dalen, and Odd Rune Straume. “The price of cost-effectiveness thresholds under therapeutic

competition in pharmaceutical markets.” *Journal of Health Economics* (2023): 102778.

Straume, Odd Rune. “Therapeutic reference pricing and drug innovation incentives”, *Economics Letters*, 2023, volume 222.

Canta, Chiara, Øivind A. Nilsen, and Simen A. Ulsaker. “Competition and risk taking in local bank markets: evidence from the business loans segment.” *Journal of Empirical Finance* (2023).

Arve, Malin, Claudine Desrieux, and Romain Espinosa. “Entrepreneurial intention and resilience: An experiment during the Covid-19 lockdown.” *Managerial and Decision Economics* 44.2 (2023): 698-715.

Arve, M., & Zwart, G. (2023). Optimal procurement and investment in new technologies under uncertainty. *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, 147, 104605.

Arve, Malin, and Claudine Desrieux. “Committee preferences and information acquisition.” *Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade* 23.3 (2023): 243-260.

Evensen, Charlotte B., Frode Steen, and Simen A. Ulsaker. “Co-location, good, bad or both: How do new entries of discount variety stores affect local grocery businesses?.” *Journal of the European Economic Association* (2023): jvad074.

Canta, Chiara, Øivind A. Nilsen, and Simen A. Ulsaker. “Competition and risk taking in local bank markets: evidence from the business loans segment.” *Journal of Empirical Finance* (2023).

Fjell, Kenneth, and John S. Heywood. “Myopic use of the inverse elasticity pricing rule by a multiproduct firm.” *Journal of Revenue and Pricing Management* (2023): 1-9.

Pires, Armando J. Garcia, and Frode Skjeret. “Screening for partial collusion in retail electricity markets.” *Energy Economics* 117 (2023): 106473.

Skjeret, Frode, et al. “Willingness to Pay for Conditional Automated Driving among Segments of Potential Buyers in Europe.” *Journal of Advanced Transportation* 2023 (2023).

Lømo, Teis Lunde. “Input price discrimination with two-part tariffs and quantity competition.” *Economics Letters* 225 (2023): 111070.

## Master theses

### 2023 (not complete)

Fredrik Lydersen, “[Anvendelsen av Wouters unntaket på idrettens regulerende organer](#)”, Master thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen, 2023.

Jon Vikingstad, “[Overlappende eierskap, produkttdifferensiering og innovasjon](#)”, Master thesis, Department of Economics, University of Bergen, June 2023.

Yagnesh Katira: “[Integration of dispatchable with non-dispatchable systems and market power](#)”, Master thesis, Norwegian School of Economics, June 2023.

Selma Hesselberg, “[Rettsikkerhetsgarantier ved nasjonal håndheving av konkurranseloven §§ 10 og 11](#)”, Master thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen, 2023.

Erica Alexandra Sandsgaard and Karine Sem, “[Competitive Advantages in the Video Streaming Industry](#)”, Master thesis, Norwegian School of Economics, June 2023.

Helene Søvik, “[As-efficient-competitor](#)”-testen og -prinsippet”, Master thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen, 2023

## 2022

Petter M. Homman & Borger B. Thomas, “[Lønnsomhetsvurdering ved omregulering av det norske pengespillmarkedet](#)”, Master thesis, Norwegian School of Economics, June 2022.

Håvard Henriksen, “[Bærekraft i konkurranseloven § 10 tredje ledd](#)”, Master thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen 2022

Ingeborg Marie Kleppe Øverås, “[Informasjonsutveksling med konkurransebegrensende formål](#)”, Master thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen 2022

Fabrice Buhendwa, “[Konkurransebegrensende virkning i konkurranseloven §§ 10 og 11](#)” Master thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen 2022

Emhjellen, M. E., “[Prisgjennomsiktighet i dagligvaremarkedet](#)”, Master thesis, Department of Economics, University of Bergen, 2022.

Haug, K., “[Oppkjøp av potensielle konkurrenter og “killer acquisitions”](#)”, Master thesis, Department of Economics, University of Bergen, 2022.

Dahle., I. R. and M. L. Ellefsen, “[Competition in the Norwegian mortgage market](#)”, Master thesis, Norwegian School of Economics, 2022.

Sårheim, L. P. og E. Nordal, “[En komparativ analyse av markedet for mobiltjenester i Norden](#)”, Master thesis, Norwegian School of Economics, 2022.

## Books, chapters in books and monographs

Kwoka JE, Valletti T, White LJ, [Antitrust Economics at a Time of Upheaval Recent Competition Policy Cases on Two Continents](#), Competition Policy International, 2023.