

# BECCLE

BERGEN CENTER FOR COMPETITION LAW AND ECONOMICS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

---

BECCLE has completed its twelfth 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 Norwegian School of Economics and the University of Bergen.

The idea to establish a center was initiated in 2010 by people at University of Bergen, Norwegian School of Economics and Norwegian Competition Authority. A committee submitted two reports to the rectors at the University of Bergen and Norwegian School of Economics, one in [October 2010](#) and one in [January 2011](#). In May and June 2011 the boards at 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 located in Jekteviksbakken 31, Bergen, Norway. 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. However, in 2022 it returned gradually to a more normal activity level.

### News in 2024 – some key figures

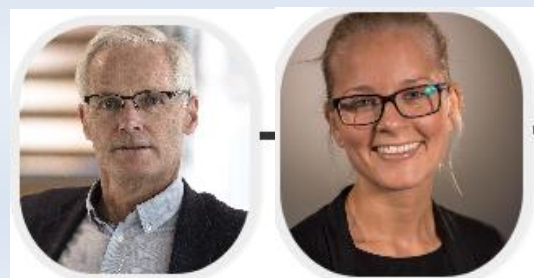
Some facts and figures for BECCLE in 2024 (more details below):

- Hosted the BECCLE conference at Norwegian School of Economics, May 30-31
- Launched an internal lunch seminar, with 10 seminars fall 2024
- 5 external seminars were given, starting in April 2023, including one half day conference
- 8 doctoral students affiliated with BECCLE are now working on competition law and economics
- 18 articles, 8 books or chapters, and 3 policy reports published or forthcoming
- 2 professor II have been affiliated with BECCLE
- External and internal evaluation of BECCLE, with a recommendation to extend the center for five new years

### Leadership at BECCLE

In March 2022 the board of BECCLE appointed professor Lars Sjørgard at the Norwegian School of Economics as the new director for the period March 15, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

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



### Professor II at BECCLE

In 2024 there have been two researchers affiliated with BECCLE. They have both had a part time position shared with Department of Economics at either NHH. They were both 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 at Norwegian School of Economics
-



Natalia Fabra



Tommaso Valletti

In addition, assistant professor Thomas Vinje, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen and chairman emeritus at Clifford Chance has been affiliated with BECCLE.

### Doctoral students

At the end of 2024 there are 8 doctoral students affiliated with BECCLE that work on competition law and economics.

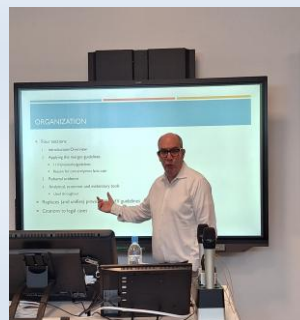
- Emil Mathias Strøm Halseth, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- Marte Dahl Reisæter, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen
- Karianne Frønsdal, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- Paula Navarro Sarmiento, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- 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
- Bengisu Bas, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics

Alina Ozhegova completed her PhD at Norwegian School of Economics in 2024, and she started in an assistant professor position at Aalto University in Finland in the fall of 2024.

### BECCLE conference May 30-31

This year's BECCLE conference was held at Norwegian School of Economics. There were 2 keynote speakers, 4 invited sessions (with three presentations on each session), and 26 contributed papers. The keynote speakers were the following:

- Professor Frank Verboven, Department of Economics at University of Leuven: 'Coordinated Entry and Competition Policy'
- Professor Thibault Schrepel, Vrije University of Amsterdam: 'How Technical Knowledge can and should inform Antitrust Analysis'.



Aviv Nevo and Thibault Schrepel at the BECCLE conference

The four invited sessions were the following:

- The future of Article 102 (organized and chaired by Thomas Vinje, Clifford Chance and UiB)
  - Massimiliano Kadar, European Commission
  - Tommaso Valletti, Imperial College London and NHH/BECCLE
  - Christian Bergqvist, University of Copenhagen
- Market design in power markets (organized and chaired by Natalia Fabra, Universidad Carlos II and NHH/BECCLE)
  - Bert Willems, UC Lovain Universite
  - Natalia Fabra, Universidad Carlos III and NHH/BECCLE
  - Matti Liski, Aalto University Business School
- Merger policy (chaired by General Director Tina Søreide, Norw. Comp. Authority)
  - Aviv Nevo, FTC and University of Pennsylvania
  - Hans Zenger, European Commission
  - Tommaso Valletti, Imperial College London and NHH/BECCLE
- Competition policy and labour markets: Are national competition authorities on point? (organized and chaired by chief economist Hans-Petter Hanson, Norw. Comp. Auth.)
  - Marta Rocha (Acting Chief Economist, Autoridade da Concorrência (PT))
  - J. Schneebacher (Assistant Director of Econometrics, Competition and Market Authority (UK))
  - A. LP. Willén (Professor, Norwegian School of Economics)

### Cartel policy in Nordic countries

On May 29, back-to-back with the BECCLE Conference, we organized a half day conference at the Norwegian School of Economics on cartel policy in four Nordic countries.

The background was a project on this topic by Lars Sørgard, Ingrid M. H. Barlund and Joseph Harrington (University of Pennsylvania). In addition to those three speakers, the speakers on the conference were Frode Steen (NHH), Lars

Henriksson (Stockholm School of Economics) and Robert Clark (Queen's University). (see program below)



Joseph Harrington and Robert Clark at the cartel conference

## Launching of internal seminars

In 2024 we decided to have regular internal lunch seminars at BECCLE's premises. The idea was to let BECCLE to a larger extent be a physical meeting place, where economists and lawyers working on competition policy issues can meet.

We had the following internal lunch seminar during fall 2024:

- August 29: Tore (Lunde) on vertical restraints
- September 12: Ingrid (Barlund) on the mandate for the committee revising the competition law
- September 19: Malin (Arve) on competition in public procurement
- September 26: Tove (Forsbacka) on proxy advisors and common ownership
- October 17: Oscar (Jara) on The Rise of Market Power and the Superstar Firms
- October 31: Lars (Sørgard) on economics of balance of harm in merger control
- November 14: Josephine (Thorson) on Illumina/Grail case
- November 28: Frode (Steen) on Coordinated Rebate Reductions and Semi-collusion: Retail Gasoline in Sweden
- December 12: Teis (Lømo) on partial vertical ownership
- December 19: Marte (Dahl Reisæter) on the recent Intel court case

We have also promoted some of our external as well as internal seminars on our LinkedIn account.

One example is the picture from Marte's internal lunch seminar in December:



## External seminars/conference in 2024

**March 21:**

**Seminar:** [‘Informasjonsutveksling som ei føremålsovertreding. Bokdatabase-saka under lupa.’](#)

- Karin Stakkestad Laastad, juridisk direktør i Konkurransetilsynet
- Preben Milde Thorbjørnsen, partner i Wikborg Rein.

**May 29:**

**Half day Conference:** ‘Cartel Policy in Nordic Countries’,

- Joseph Harrington: Design of optimal cartel policy
- Ingrid M. H. Barlund: Cartel policy in four Nordic countries
- Lars Sørgard: Illegal cartels in four Nordic countries after 2004-22
- Frode Steen: Legal cartels in Nordic countries before 2000
- Lars Henriksson: Cartel enforcement in Sweden – recent experiences
- Robert Clark: Algorithmic pricing and collusion

**October 3:**

**Seminar:** [‘Arbeidsmarkedet og fusjonskontrollen](#)

- Ronny Gjendemsjø, Universitetet i Bergen
- Lars Sørgard, Norges handelshøyskole
- Beret Sundet, advokatfirmaet Bahr
- Hans-Petter Hanson, Konkurransetilsynet

**November 12:**

**Seminar:** [‘Google Shopping: The Final Word from the Court of Justice – Consequences for the Future of Article 102’](#)

- Assistant professor Thomas Vinje, at University of Bergen, and former partner at Clifford Chance

**December 5:** [‘The Draghi Report and the future of Competition Policy and State Aid in Europe’](#),

- Tommaso Valletti, Imperial College London and Norwegian School of Economics.

## External research projects

There are several external research projects researchers have been involved in 2024. Here are some examples:

- ‘Distributional effects of environmental policy: DEEP’. ERC Starting grant to Morten Sæthre at NHH from ERC (European research Council)
- ‘Cartel Policy in Nordic Countries’. Project leader Lars Sjørgard, and project members Ingrid Barlund and Joseph Harrington. Funded through SNF
- ‘Methods for detecting illegal cooperation and abuse of dominance applied to the pharmaceutical market’. Project leader Kurt Brekke, and project members Odd Rune Straume and Tor Helge Holmås. Funded through SNF
- ‘Strategic barriers to entry and expansion in grocery retailing’. Project leader Morten Sæthre and project member Alina Ozhegova. Funded through SNF
- ‘Network support to Competition Law and Public Procurement from Norwegian Research Council’ to Faculty of Law at University of Bergen

## Evaluation of BECCLE

BECCLE was established in 2011, and every fifth year it has been decided jointly by University of Bergen and the Norwegian School of Economics whether to prolong the center for five more years.

The five period will end by the end of 2025. In the fall of 2024 BECCLE was evaluated, an input for the decision whether to prolong BECCLE with five more years. An external evaluation committee had the following members:

- Kjell Sunnevåg, director for external relations in Konkurransetilsynet
- Anne Christine Witt, professor of law at EDHEC Business School
- Otto Toivanen, Professor of economics at Aalto University

They received an internal evaluation made by the BECCLE management, and in their report they concluded as follows:

*‘BECCLE’s goal is to be a meeting place for faculty, including postdocs and PhDs, from UiB and NHH who conduct research within the centre’s area of research, and to facilitate research, conferences, and seminars to promote discussion and knowledge development in the fields of competition law and economics.*

*This Committee’s assignment has been to evaluate to what extent BECCLE has succeeded in reaching these main objectives. In addition, the Committee has also assessed BECCLE’s efforts to secure long term funding.*

*For the evaluation period, the Committee finds that the BECCLE management has been highly successful in reaching the objectives behind its operations.*

*First of all, the Committee is very impressed by the quality of research, in particular in economics. The quantity of research is also at a very good level.*

*BECCLE brings together academic lawyers and economists interested in competition policy-related questions. The Committee concludes that BECCLE has undoubtedly fulfilled its goal to serve as a joint platform for researchers from UiB and NHH who conduct research in the area of competition law and economics during the period under review.*

*Also, the Committee finds that BECCLE has been very active in terms of conferences and organization of various seminars. Moreover, the Committee notes that BECCLE has improved integration of the research environments at UiB and NHH. BECCLE has also succeeded in increasing its visibility on social media, but the Committee notes that there still is room for improvement in its digital presence.’*

A decision to prolong BECCLE or not will be made by University of Bergen and Norwegian School of Economics before the summer of 2025.

## Members of public committees

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

The most important committee, seen from BECCLE’s perspective, is the committee that is asked to revise the competition law. They were appointed mid 2024, and the committee has a deadline in December 2025. There are two members from Faculty of Law at University of Bergen, and one from Department of Economics at NHH:

- Ingrid M. H. Barlund (UiB)
- Malgorzata Agnieszka Cyndecka (UiB)
- Linda Orvedal (NHH)



There are also other committees where members of BECCLE have been active in 2024:

- Frode Steen: Member of a committee analysing a possible third runway on Gardermoen airport
- Kurt Brekke: Member of committee to analyse dental health
- Kurt Brekke: Member of committee to analyse prioritization in the health sector

- Halvard H. Fredriksen (leader) and Malin Arve: Committee revising the law on public procurement

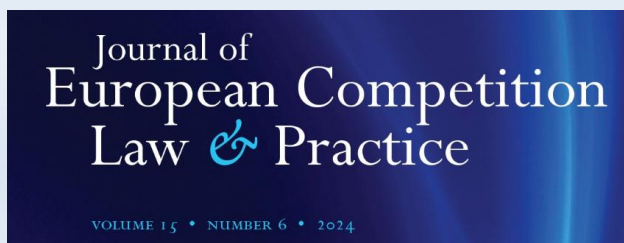
In addition, several researchers affiliated with BECCLE are members of the Competition Appeal Tribunal (Konkurransesklagenemnda):

- Frode Steen, NHH (until December 2024)
- Ronny Gjendemsjø, UiB
- Tore Lunde, UiB
- Teis Lunde Lømo, UiB
- Kurt Brekke (since February 2025), NHH

## Publications in 2024

### Articles

- Kurt Brekke, Dag Morten Dalen and Odd Rune Straume (2024): 'Competing with precision: incentives for developing predictive biomarker tests', *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, Volume 126, Issue 1, January 2024, Pages 60-97.
- Kurt Brekke, Odd Rune Straume and Luigi Siciliani (2024): 'Competition, quality and integrated health care', *Journal of Health Economics*, Volume 95, May 2024, 102880.



- Josephine Thorson (2024): 'Balance of harms' after CK Telecoms', *Journal of European Competition Law & Practice*, 2024, 1-7.
- Malin Arve and David Martimort (2024): 'Auctioning long-term contracts under financial constraints', *Review of Economic Studies*.
- Hans Hvide, Tom G. Meling, Magne Mogstad, "Broadband Internet and the Stock Market Investments of Individual Investors", *Journal of Finance*, 2024
- Øivind Anti Nilssen, A. Raknerud. "Dynamics of first-time patenting firms", *Research Policy*, Volume 53, Issue 8, 2024, Article 105054.
- Kenneth Fjell, John S. Heywood, Debashis Pal, "Keeping mobile firms at home: The role of public enterprise", *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, 2024.
- Frode Steen, Richard Friberg, Emil M. Strøm Halseth and Simen A. Ulsaker "The effect of cross-border shopping on commodity tax revenue: results from Norway's COVID-19 border closings", *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, Volume 126, Issue 4, 2024, Pages 733-772.
- Bjørn Olav Johansen, Tommy S. Gabrielsen and Odd Rune Straume (2024), 'Merger Control in markets with

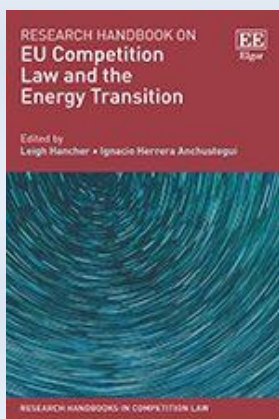
National Pricing', *Journal of Law and Economics*, forthcoming.



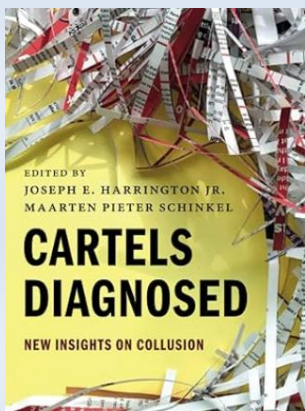
- Frode Steen, C.B. Evensen, Simen A. Ulsaker "Co-Location, Good, Bad, or Both: How do New Entries of Discount Variety Stores Affect Local Grocery Businesses?", *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Volume 22, Issue 4, 2024, Pages 1798-1843.
- Eeva Mauring (2024): 'Search and Price Discrimination Online', *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics*, forthcoming.
- Ingrid Margrethe Halvorsen Barlund, Joseph E. Harrington, Jr. and Lars Sjørgard (2024): 'A Framework for Effective Public Enforcement of Cartels: A Study of Four Nordic Countries', (co-authors:), *European Competition Law Review*, forthcoming
- Kurt Brekke, Dag Morten Dalen and Odd Rune Straume (2024): 'Taking the competitor's pill: when combination therapies enter pharmaceutical markets', *Journal of Health Economics*, forthcoming.
- Teis Lunde Lømo (2024): 'Overlapping ownership and input prices', *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, 94, 111628.
- Teis Lunde Lømo (2024): 'Secret two-part tariff and retailer risk aversion', *Review of Industrial Organization*, forthcoming.
- Mateusz Mysliwski, Fabio N. Sanches, Daniel Silva Jr. and Tand Srisuma (2024): 'The Welfare Effects of Supply and Demand Frictions in a Dynamic Pricing Game' *Economic Journal*, forthcoming.
- Mateusz Mysliwski, May Rostom, Fabio N. Sanches, Daniel Silva Jr. and Tand Srisuma (2024): Identification and Estimation of a Search Model with Heterogeneous Consumers and Firms, *Journal of Econometrics*, forthcoming.
- Richard Friberg, Emil M. Strøm Halseth, Frode Steen and Simen A. Ulsaker (2024): 'The effect of cross-border shopping on commodity tax revenue: Results from a natural experiment', *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, forthcoming
- Malin Arve, Armando Pires, Ronny Gjendemsjø, Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui and Frode Skjeret (2024): 'The value of screening tools in cartel cases', *European Competition Journal*, May 2024.

### Books, chapters in books and monographs

- Ronny Gjendemsjø (2024): Sustainability agreements and Article 101(3) TFEU, in L. Hancher and I. Anchustegui (ed.): *Research Handbook on EU Competition Law and the Energy Transition*, Edward Elgar, 2024.



- Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui and Even Tukun (2024): "Collaborating in Offshore Renewable Energy Projects and Competition Law: Consortium Bids in Deep Waters", in L. Hancher and I. Anchustegui (ed.): Research Handbook on EU Competition Law and the Energy Transition, Edward Elgar, 2024.
- Kurt Brekke and Lars Sørsgard: 'Now you are asking for a real war!' Private Alarm Systems in Norway', chapter 2 in Joseph E. Harrington Jr and Maarten Pieter Schinkel (eds): Cartels Diagnosed: New Insight on Collusion, Cambridge University Press 2024.



- Frode Steen and Lars Sørsgard: 'Coordinated Rebate Reductions and Semi-collusion: Retail Gasoline in Sweden gasoline market', chapter 8 in Joseph E. Harrington Jr and Maarten Pieter Schinkel (eds): Cartels Diagnosed: New Insight on Collusion, Cambridge University Press 2024.
- Tore Lunde, Lovkommentar Karnov: Lov om patenter (patentloven) § 39 d og kap. 5, 8 og 11
- Tore Lunde, Lov om boikott, aujorføring av lovkommentarer
- Tore Lunde, Lovkommentar Karnov: Pengespilloven, stjernernote
- Ronny Gjendemsjø, Eirik Østerud, Lovkommentarer EØS-konkurranseloven, 2024.

## Policy articles and reports

- Tore Lunde, Ronny Gjendemsjø, "Feedback on the draft Guidelines on exclusionary abuses under Article 102 TFEU", 2024.
- Tore Lunde, "Dr. Holms-dommen (HR-2023-847-A). Strøkservitutt eller konkurranseklausul?", 2024
- Josephine Thorson, "Ceci n'est pas (qu')une concentration", La vie du droit - Mélanges en l'honneur du Professeur Louis Vogel, Lexis Nexis/Dalloz/Lefebvre Dalloz/Lawlex/LGDJ/Lextenso, October 2024

## BECCLE

Bergen Center for Competition Law and Economics (BECCLE) was [established](#) in 2011, and it is a center jointly owned by Norwegian School of Economics and the University of Bergen. It is a meeting place for economists and lawyers interested in competition policy questions. The center is located in [Jekteviksbakken 31](#) in the centre of Bergen.

In 2012 BECCLE joined a European network of research institutions with a similar focus: [CLEEN](#) (Competition Law and Economics European Network).

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.

