

Wicked Waters: Strengthening a Leading Research Environment for Wicked Problems in Green and Sustainable Maritime Governance in the Nordics

Humankind is currently dealing with the most wicked problem: how can we ensure social and economic growth while preserving the environment, mitigating and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change? These changes are affecting our seas and oceans with growing pressure. More natural resources are extracted (fisheries, energy), sea spaces are more occupied as a consequence, and competing uses and interests create clashes. Traditional legal tools are proving insufficient or non-existent. The Research Group for Natural Resource Law, Environmental Law, and Development Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bergen (“the Research Group”) is and will continue working towards identifying those legal tools that may support the creation of *maritime green and sustainable governance* frameworks.

Wicked Waters envisages being a launching network to advance regulatory developments considering technological progress, climate change pressures, and societal needs. This will combine a Norwegian focus accompanied by a global and comparative law reach. Support to Wicked Waters will generate new and innovative legal research to develop critical legal tools and academic theoretical frameworks in *maritime green and sustainable governance*. Within this field, we focus on three thematic areas: i) *multiuse of sea spaces*; ii) *circular and life cycle approaches to maritime activities*; iii) *and sustainable offshore infrastructure financing*.

Second, support for Wicked Waters will be directed to strengthening our research profile, increasing research activity, creating international networks, training PhD students, and leading to a large external funding application in *maritime green and sustainable governance*.

A focus on *maritime green and sustainable governance*, combining environmental aspects with industrial sea uses, and the support to develop a research network and PhD educational activities will reinforce the position of our Research Group as a leading environment in the Nordics. Long-term support and an extended network will create a solid basis to plan and execute long-term, group-based projects & funding proposals, expand our membership in different international organizations and facilitate the growth of our Faculty in the field. It will also strengthen our collaboration, ties, and exchanges with our student community.