

Legal aspects of the institutionalization of international cooperation in the outer space

The dissertation focuses on analyzing the process of institutionalization of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space. It examines how states have created legal frameworks for this cooperation since the early days of space activities, shaping international principles and norms governing actions in outer space. A key focus of the analysis is on the international treaties that form the *corpus juris spatialis*, as well as soft law instruments, which have gained prominence in recent decades. The dissertation also explores the role of the United Nations in fostering international cooperation, particularly through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which has become the central forum for international collaboration in space exploration.

The study also analyzes initiatives and organizations outside the UN system, notably the European Space Agency and the Artemis Accords, which introduced new forms of space cooperation that go beyond traditional treaty frameworks. The research highlights how various legal and institutional mechanisms contribute to the development of space cooperation, adapting to new challenges such as the increasing role of the private sector and growing international tensions.

The findings confirm that the institutionalization of international space cooperation is based on a combination of binding treaty norms and more flexible soft law instruments, which enable rapid responses to evolving technological and political conditions. Although the United Nations has played a key role in building consensus within the framework of international space law, its influence has diminished due to the regionalization of international relations and the lack of reforms within COPUOS.

The conclusions emphasize the need for further integration of various legal and institutional mechanisms to address contemporary challenges related to space exploration, including issues of space traffic management, space debris, and space resource management. The study also underscores the necessity of reforming COPUOS and strengthening cooperation between states, the commercial sector, and non-governmental organizations.