The European Union’s administrative system raises unique constitutional and legal problems. It is characterized by cooperative links that can be both vertical – between national and EU authorities – and horizontal – between national authorities amongst themselves. This is visible in how the different levels exchange information, ever more frequently with the use of new technologies; in how joint decision-making procedures are established; and in how new administrative bodies are created to ensure uniformity in the implementation of policies across the different levels.

Europe’s administrative system is also characterized by the fact that the authorities involved in it belong to different jurisdictions. Their powers are obtained and framed by different legislatures, and those powers’ exercise is subject to the control of different judicial systems. However integrated it may be, European multilevel administration must coexist with the legacy of the paradigm of administrative law left by the nation-state. Historically, administrative law was designed for the control of the exercise of public power by national authorities, albeit only within the territorial confines of the state. The mechanisms of judicial control and the fundamental procedural rights enshrined in the Treaties are designed only to control the exercise of power by authorities at EU level. The intertwining of levels of administrative authority in Europe is not necessarily accompanied by new instruments of control and accountability that can accommodate composite forms of administration.

The Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) invites junior scholars, at doctoral or postdoctoral level, to submit and present papers examining the specific legal issues of accountability that are raised at the interstices of Europe’s multilevel administration – where administrative action at national and EU level are combined.

In particular, there is much interest in understanding how the fragmentation of Europe’s administrative order into a multitude of different authorities, jurisdictions, and legal orders affects the possibilities to ensure accountability in all its forms – political, judicial, or legal. From the perspective of the jurist, the question then arises of how current law may be used or reformed to address the accountability problems resulting from the intertwining of different levels of administration.

Contributions are welcome from any approach – be it empirical, theoretical, doctrinal, or prescriptive. The respective topics may be situated in any area where the action of administrations from different levels is involved: the Banking Union, migration policy, risk regulation, environmental protection, just to name a few.

Interested scholars are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 400 words and a bio of no more than 200 words by November 5th, 2018. The abstracts and bios should be sent to f.britobastos@uva.nl. Successful applicants will be informed by the 12th of November. Limited funding for travel expenses may be available on a case-by-case basis.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Filipe Brito Bastos at f.britobastos@uva.nl.