

# **The legal regime and practical operation of Continuing Powers of Attorney: shared reflections**

Els poders preventius: reflexions compartides  
sobre el seu funcionament i marc legal

Zorgvolmachten en levenstestamenten: gedeelde reflecties  
op de werking en het juridisch kader ervan

**Girona, Friday 14 November 2025**

Aula Seminari 2  
Facultat de Dret  
Campus Montilivi  
Universitat de Girona

Assistance to the seminar is free, but registration is needed by sending an email to  
[secretaria.iecpl.dret@udg.edu](mailto:secretaria.iecpl.dret@udg.edu)

This international seminar aims to examine and compare the legal frameworks and practical applications of continuing powers of attorney — *poders preventius in Catalonia, levenstestamenten in the Netherlands, and zorgvolmachten in Belgium* — as legal instruments designed to anticipate future loss of capacity. These mechanisms, granted by individuals while they are fully capable, allow them to appoint a trusted representative to manage personal and financial matters in the event of cognitive decline or incapacity. The seminar will explore the legal nature and embedding of these instruments, the clauses typically included, the procedures for their activation and operation, and the degree of recognition they receive from third parties.

The seminar takes place at a particularly relevant moment for Catalonia, as it coincides with the final stages of a legislative reform of the Catalan Civil Code, which proposes significant changes to the legal regime governing support for the exercise of legal capacity. Inspired by the human rights model of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the reform promotes voluntary and personalised support mechanisms — such as continuing powers of attorney — as alternatives to traditional guardianship. The seminar will also present findings from empirical research on how individuals understand and use these instruments, both from the perspective of those granting them and those acting as representatives, for instance, professional attorneys. Finally, the discussion will address the role of safeguards within these instruments, considering how to ensure adequate protection without discouraging their use, thereby promoting autonomy and legal security.

#### Program

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| <b>12:00–13:00</b> | Welcome of participants: cold buffet and drinks  |
| <b>13:00–13:15</b> | Introduction to the seminar  |
| <b>13:15–14:30</b> | Dutch research on social and legal practices relating to 'Levenstestamenten'<br><br><b>Leon Verstappen</b> , <i>Universiteit Groningen</i><br><b>Rieneke Stelma-Roorda</b> , <i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i><br><br>Discussion                                 |
| <b>14:30–15:45</b> | 'Zorgvolmachten' in Belgium: review of the practice from a professional and academic standpoint<br><br><b>Hélène Goret</b> , <i>Notary, Vrije Universiteit Brussel</i><br><b>Tim Wuyts</b> , <i>Universiteit Hasselt</i><br><br>Discussion                         |
| <b>15:45–16:15</b> | <i>Coffee break</i>  |
| <b>17:00–18:15</b> | Practice on continuing powers of attorney in Catalonia and the impact of proposed reforms<br><br><b>Javier Serrano Copete</b> , <i>Notary, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona</i><br><b>Jordi Ribot Igualada</b> , <i>Universitat de Girona</i><br><br>Discussion |
| <b>18:15–18:45</b> | Balance and reflections on the operation and legal regime of CPAs. Comparative insights from shared experiences and further research<br><br>Closing of the seminar   |

