

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The third issue of the scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* for the year 2016 includes scientific papers in the field of law and politics.

This issue comprises articles on the topic “*Child Policy*”, as well as two articles on some contemporary issues.

Nevena Vučković Šahović and Ines Cerović, in their paper *Juvenile Justice – procedural guarantees for child offenders*, examine juvenile justice as the field of children’s rights extensively covered in international documents. It is obviously a very sensitive field where violations of children’s rights are numerous, where violence in the course of proceedings and in penitentiary institutions is amply proven, where the response is not always child-friendly and does not always favor individual child development. Juvenile justice accounts for violations of children’s rights at the arrest phase, in administrative detention, during the judicial proceedings, in the execution of judiciary sentences, but also in institutional care.

Nevena Petrušić elaborates on the issue of *Child-Friendly Legal Aid in Civil Court Proceedings: International standards and the circumstances in the Republic of Serbia*. The paper discusses international standards on the provision of legal assistance to children in civil and administrative proceedings in the context of the contemporary concept of child-friendly justice. The author critically analyzes the national legal provisions on legal assistance to children, which provide for the implementation of constitutional norms on the right to access to justice and the right to a fair trial. As children are fully entitled to these rights, the author underscores the need to establish an effective and sustainable national system of child-friendly legal aid.

Dejan Janićijević, in his paper *Child Protection and Parent Support: the two dichotomies*, discusses the two basic models of the state authorities’ intervention into family life aimed at protecting children. The first model focuses on child protection; the second one focuses on child welfare or family support. The author analyses the differences and tensions that arise between the proponents of these two concepts, resulting in different styles of conceiving professional social work. Then, the author elaborates on two different approaches towards mistakes and risks accompanying social work, involving the concept of risk avoidance and the concept of risk taking. Finally, the author observes the interconnectivity between the analyzed concepts.

Emir Ćorović, in his paper *The potentials of the so-called “Marija’s law” in combating pedophilia*, discusses sexually based offenses, especially those of a pedophilic character, are of great interest to the overall professional and unprofessional public. In 2013, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia passed the Act on Special Measures for the Prevention of Crimes against Sexual Freedom involving Minors, which is colloquially known as “*Marija’s Law*”, after a minor victim of rape and subsequent death. This Act has established a special criminal justice regime pertaining to sexual offenders of a pedophilic orientation. The distinctive features of “*Marija’s Law*” are the introduction of special measures and special records intended for the perpetrators of these

crimes. This Act excludes and partly modifies the application of some general criminal law institutes in relation to sexual offenders, particularly those that provide corresponding benefits to criminal offenders.

Anika Jakovljević discusses *The Role of Local Authorities in Exercising and Protecting Children's Rights: The experience of the city of Kragujevac*. As an epicenter of democracy and protection of citizens' rights in the field of local government, local authorities have a primary role in exercising and protecting children's rights. Their activities are numerous and diverse, but in practice they are significantly aggravated by the imprecise delimitation of their responsibilities from the central authorities.

Filip Mirić, in his paper *Leisure Time and Juvenile Delinquency*, analyzes the impact of leisure time on the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. Drawing attention to the fact that unstructured and inappropriate use of juveniles' spare time may result in unlawful conduct, the author emphasizes the importance of efficient planning and well-structured use of one's leisure time as a means of preventing juvenile delinquency and combating juvenile crime. These factors should be taken into account when designing the criminal policy and prevention measures for combating juvenile crime.

Filip Mirić has also prepared a book review of the textbook *The Rights of the Child*, co-authored by Prof. dr Nevena Vučković Šahović and Prof. dr Nevena Petrušić (written in Serbian: *Prava deteta*, Pravni fakultet, Univerzitet u Nišu, Niš, 2015; 268 pages; Authors: *Nevena Vučković Šahović, Nevena Petrušić.*) The book review points out that the textbook aims to provide a systematic and comprehensive insight into the corpus of children's rights in both international and national legislation, and point to their specific character in the context of human rights. The authors indicate that the issues pertaining to the protection of the rights of the child must be given special attention, particularly in terms of envisaging efficient and effective legal mechanisms for the full implementation of ratified international legal documents in this field.

The last three papers deal with subject-specific issues.

Nataša Golubović and Srđan Golubović discuss *the Characteristics of Unemployment in the Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia*. Serbian labor market is characterized by a high level and the stable character of unemployment and long-term unemployment. However, in terms of unemployment, there are differences between developed and less developed regions in Serbia. These differences are especially prominent between northern and southern parts of the country. The authors examine these regional differences, particularly focusing on unemployment dynamics in the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, with special reference to border districts.

Željko Nikač and Nikola Artonović discuss the Status of Experts in Criminal Proceedings in the Republic of Serbia. With the introduction of the concept of prosecutorial and police investigation in the Serbian criminal procedure, the professional assistance based on the knowledge from different fields of science, technology, arts or crafts is essential to the public prosecutor, the defendant and the injured party (acting as a private/subsidiary prosecutor). The amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code introduced the concept of an expert advisor, whose participation can contribute to the quality of professional expertise in court proceedings. The authors analyse and critically examine the form and content of expert assistance provided by different kinds of court experts (specialists, expert advisors, expert witnesses, expert persons) who contribute to clarifying disputable facts and resolving certain technical and other disputable issues.

Zoran Jovanovski and Gjorgji Veljovski, in their paper *The Role of the Militaries in Fighting Modern Terrorism*, reevaluate the consequences of deploying the militaries in the fight against terrorism and its effects on the military, the terrorists and the civilian population. Thus far, the European militaries have acted outside their countries but, now, the governments are reconsidering the possibility of their active involvement in the domestic security. In certain circumstances and political climate, the effects of using the military are positive, but it may have a harmful effect in adverse political and social conditions because it can limit the rights and freedoms of the citizens, it can cause an escalation of the conflict, and even encourage a new generation of terrorists.

We hope you will enjoy reading the results of scientific research on the law and politics issues that the contributing authors have chosen to discuss in their theoretical and empirical research.

The multidisciplinary nature of the submitted papers and the authors' choice of current legal and political issues indicate that our scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* is open to different approaches to the legal and political matter under observation and committed to publishing scientific articles across a wide range of social sciences and humanities. In that context, we invite you to submit research articles on topics of your professional interest.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Miomira Kostić, LL.D.

Niš, 19th September 2016