

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The first issue of the scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* for the year 2018 contains articles from different fields of law, social sciences and humanities.

Zorica Mršević, LL.D., from the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, and **Svetlana Janković, LL.D.**, from the Institute for Strategic Research in Belgrade, submitted the paper titled "*Local knowledge on the local ownership principle in Serbia*", where they examine the functioning and implementation of the *local ownership principle* in situations entailing the lack of support of local knowledge during the process of establishing gender equality mechanisms. Gender equality mechanisms were part of the package of international organizations' influence over the process of democratic institutional reform in Serbia. The lack of local knowledge production regarding the essence and role of the *local ownership principle* in the creation of gender equality institutions is permanent in Serbia. Domestic actors became quickly satisfied with the comfortable position of secondary lead stakeholders, with a role of transmitters and users of foreign concepts. They did not take advantage of the opportunities provided by the *local ownership principle* and did not pretend to take on either the role of creators or of relevant knowledge holders of policy-based public policies and practices.

Anne Scheinberg, Jelena Nesić, Rachel Savain, Pietro Luppi, Portia Sinnott, Flaviu Petean and Flaviu Pop submitted the paper titled "*From Collision to Collaboration: Integrating Informal Recyclers and Re-Use Operators in Europe, A Review*". The European Union (EU) hosts some of the world's most developed waste management systems and an ambitious policy commitment to the Circular Economy. The existence of informal recycling and re-use activities in Europe has been vigorously denied until quite recently, and remains a very challenging subject for the European solid waste management sector, as well as for European government and private institutions. In countries ranging from Malta to Macedonia and from France to Turkey, informal recyclers excluded from legal recycling niches increasingly collide with formalised and controlled EU approaches to urban waste management, packaging recovery schemes, formal re-use enterprises, and extended producer responsibility systems. This review focuses on the period from 2004 through the first half of 2016. The 78 sources on European (and neighbouring) informal recycling and re-use are contextualised with global sources and experience. The article focuses on informal recovery in and at the borders of the European Union, documents the conflicts and collisions, and elaborates on some constructive approaches towards legalisation, integration, and reconciliation. The overarching recommendation, to locate the issue of informal recovery and integration in the framework of the European Circular Economy Package, is supported by four specific pillars of an integration strategy: documentation, legalisation, occupational and enterprise recognition, and preparation for structural integration. This article will be re-published under the permission (granted by SAGE free of charge) to reprint the article "*From collision to collaboration – Integrating informal recyclers and re-use operators in*

Europe: A review", originally published in the SAGE Journal *Waste Management & Research*, on 5th July 2018.

Aleksandar Đorđević, LL.D., Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, submitted the paper "**Judicial Authority Reforms in Medieval Serbia, Bohemia and Poland**". The author analyses the attempt to reform the judiciary in the medieval Slavic world. In the 14th century, three important legal codes were enacted in Serbia, Bohemia, and Poland: Dušan's Code, *Maiestas Carolina* and Statutes of Casimir the Great, respectively. The proclamation of these three codes was the result of strengthening the powers of their rulers: Emperor Dušan, the Bohemian king Charles IV, and the Polish king Casimir. Almost at the same time, these rulers passed very similar legal provisions on the reorganisation of courts. The main idea was to introduce special state judges, with the aim of suppressing and limiting the feudal and other forms of judiciary in their respective states. The reform of courts, the judiciary and court proceedings was part of the prevalent attempts to centralise the state authority in the three Slavic states. This process is a phenomenon of substantial relevance in the history of Slavic law, particularly given the fact that it involved the most powerful rulers of these medieval states, who were one another's contemporaries.

Rade Bogojević, LL.D., Police Counselor, Deputy Director at Centre for Basic Police Training, Sremska Kamenica, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia, and **Tatjana Skakavac, LL.D.**, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Legal and Business Studies "dr Lazar Vrkatić", Novi Sad, Union University-Belgrade, submitted the paper titled "**Corruption as an obstacle to European Integrations**". The authors examine the concept of corruption from historical, social and legal perspective. The term derives from the Latin word "*corruptus*", meaning deterioration, blackmail, depravity, bribery, etc. The practice of bribery is as old as the state itself. The ancient Greeks and Romans faced this phenomenon and enacted rules aimed at its prevention and suppression. In the 18th century England, the notion of corruption was associated not only with corrupt government but also with giving bribes. Despite numerous efforts of the international community to put an end to this problem, the fact is that many countries have not ratified the proposed documents of this type yet. In terms of criminal law, corruption-related offences in Serbia today primarily include crimes against official duties, crimes against the economy, and crimes against freedom and civil rights. In this paper, the authors examine some issues related to corruption in light of its harmful effects on the European Integration process.

Ana Lukić Vidojković, Judge, Basic Court in Niš submitted the paper titled "**Compensation of Civil Procedure Costs in Mass Tort Litigation**". This paper examines the legal consequences of mass tort litigation in cases where the amount of damages is multiple times lower than the litigation costs. In the context of current judicial practice, the author observes this phenomenon from the aspect of prohibition of abuse of rights, and offers proposals for improving the existing regulation in order to effectively prevent the abuse of rights.

Filip Mirić, LL.D., Associate for Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, submitted the paper titled "**The Criminological Heritage of the Faculty of Law, University of Niš**". Criminology, as a science dealing with the forms and causes of crime, has been studied at the Faculty of Law, University of Niš, since its establishment in 1960. In the past 56 years, the Law Faculty in Nis has published numerous

publications (textbooks and monographs) on criminology. This paper aims to provide a brief overview of the most important criminological literature published by the Faculty of Law, University of Niš, which contributed to casting more light on the multifaceted criminological issues. The author also recognizes and commends the dedicated work of Law Faculty teaching staff and the exerted efforts to present these complex issues in a comprehensible way, adapted to the needs of junior and senior law students and the needs of the wider academic, professional and social communities.

We hope you will enjoy reading the results of scientific research on the legal 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 issues indicate that our scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* is open to different approaches to the legal 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.

We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to our distinguished reviewers whose professional attitude to double-blind peer review has significantly contributed to the quality of our scientific journal.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Miomira Kostić, LL.D.

Niš, 28th September 2018