

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The *third issue* of the scientific journal **Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics** for the year 2019 contains articles from different fields of law, social sciences and humanities. This thematic issue is co-edited by Darko Trifunović, PhD, Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade and Director of Institute for National and International Security - INIS, Belgrade.

Prof. Srdjan Golubović, LL.D., Full Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, and **Prof. Nataša Golubović, PhD**, Full Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Niš, Republic of Serbia, submitted the paper titled „**Rule of Law and Democratic Consolidation in Serbia**“, where they discuss the concept of liberal consolidated democracy, the rule of law and accountability mechanisms as institutional guarantees for the application of fundamental democratic principles. While renowned international organizations classify Serbia as democracy, relevant research shows that Serbia is classified as a semi-consolidated (defective or flawed) democracy. Irregularities in election procedures, as well as the violation of elements that guarantee respect for democratic norms and institutions in recent years, indicate a certain democratic "regression". The paper examines the extent to which the rule of law represents support to the consolidation of democracy in Serbia and points out to the potential causes of observed deficiencies in this area, which aggravate democracy consolidation.

Prof. Igor Vukonjanski, LL.D., Associate Professor, National Academy of Public Administration, Belgrade, submitted the paper titled “**The Substance and Implication of Integral Planning in Local Government Units**”. The author discusses the issue of development planning in local government units which has been regulated in recent decades by adequate laws: yet, these laws are significantly different in the developed and developing countries, primarily due to an underdeveloped science-based local development theory. Recent theory theory identifies two local planning systems: the *partial system* (driven by the narrow state interests) and the new *integral system* (which implies partnership between the state and the most influential professional democratic forces in local development planning activities). The comparative analysis reveals the great advantages of the integral local planning system, which generates positive social change and enables developing countries to catch up with the developed ones.

Tijana Stančevski, PhD student, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, submitted the paper titled “**Institute of Rehabilitation in the National Legislation (1929- 2011)**”. The author examines the legal documents containing the legal institute of rehabilitation, starting from the 1929 Criminal Code of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, as the first Code that envisaged this institute. In the post-war Yugoslavia, the new legal order brought about three new criminal codes (the 1947 Criminal Code of the FPRY, the 1951 Criminal Code of the FPRY, and the 1976 Criminal Code of the SFRY), all of which included provisions on rehabilitation. In the current legislation, rehabilitation is envisaged in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia and two legislative acts on rehabilitation of political convicts of 2006 and 2011. The paper examines the normative framework of rehabilitation in our legal system from the historical perspective.

Marija Stojanović, PhD student, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, submitted the paper titled “**Criminological Aspects of War**”. The author discusses the historical origins of war as

a negative social phenomenon. After a brief overview of war-related mythology in polytheistic religions, the author discusses the social phenomenon of war in different parts of the world and in different epochs: the Old Age, the Middle Ages, and the New Age. With the development of technology and its misuse, wars have become even more barbaric. Yet, at the international level, there is no systematic approach to prosecuting war crimes. Economic interests of the powerful minority seem to be more important than the interest of the huge majority whose lives are not perceived as invaluable assets but merely as casual statistics.

This issue also includes two reviews on different but very important events: a review of a scientific conference which may be interesting to the general academic and professional public, and a review of an educational legal clinic project envisaged for practical training of law-school students.

Darko Obradović, BSc in Security Management, Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade, submitted “*Review of the International Scientific Conference "Serbia-United States Relations" and the Monograph "Serbia-United States Relations"*”. The international scientific conference "Serbia-United States Relations" was held at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, on 11 September 2019. It was organized by the Institute for National and International Security, and realized in partnership with the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Archives of Vojvodina. The conference was an opportunity for scholars and experts from different fields to exchange views and experiences, to improve the understanding of this issue, strengthen and promote cooperation between the two countries. The published monograph provides an insight into different aspects of cooperation that have been addressed in the articles submitted by the conference participants.

Sanja Tošić and Nikola Božanović, from NGO KOM 018, submitted the review of the *Project "Mobile Legal Clinic – service for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups"* (2016-2018). The Project was implemented by Club for Youth Empowerment (KOM 018) from Niš in cooperation with Faculty of Law, University of Nis, and the Roma Association from Prokuplje, in the period from December 2016 to November 2018. The project goal was to develop a local community service for human rights protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups and provide free legal assistance to their members. Specific objectives were: to develop law students' knowledge, skills and competences to protect and promote human rights, to ensure additional educational opportunities and support students' engagement in the local community; to support vulnerable groups in exercising their rights; and to contribute to the combat against violation of human rights.

We hope you will enjoy reading the results of scientific research on the legal, economic, social policy and other 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 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.

We wish you a happy New Year and we look forward to our prospective cooperation.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Miomira Kostić, LL.D

Niš, 17th December 2019

Guest Editors

Darko Trifunović, PhD