

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present a new volume of our faculty journal, “*Studia Iuridica*”, a product of cooperation between the *Centre for Promotion of Polish Legal Research*, founded on 12 December 2016 at the Faculty, and our Ukrainian partners. The Centre, directed by Dr. Krzysztof Szczucki, was established following the receipt by Warsaw University’s Faculty of Law And Administration of a PLN 1.8m grant (for years 2017-18) from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education for the project entitled “Centre for Promotion of Polish Legal Research” as part of the “Dialog” Programme.

The aim of the project is, broadly speaking, to internationalize Polish legal scholarship and research, and to raise awareness of and publicize its achievements, particularly in Eastern Europe. The Centre disburses funds to scholars employed by the Faculty with a view to providing them with linguistic and logistical support necessary to partake in international research undertakings and academic conferences abroad. Ukraine is the priority area for the Centre. Activities of the Centre for Promotion of Polish Legal Research have offered tremendous opportunities to establish ties with representatives of Ukrainian universities and non-governmental organizations, invite selected authorities to Poland as *visiting scholars* and *visiting professors* and to partake in expert internship programmes. The project has brought closer the academic worlds of Poland and Ukraine, which paves the way for the formation of international research teams, exchange of expertise and circulation of the most interesting research outcomes, whilst opening a host of options regarding the engagement of Polish experts in cooperation with Ukrainian public administrative authorities, non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs.

The Centre for Promotion of Polish legal research coordinated the creation of an outpost of the Warsaw University’s Faculty of Law and Administration in Kiev. The unit, operating as a foreign section, with a structure and mode of operation reminiscent of institutions known in Anglo-Saxon countries as international gateway, carries out a number of tasks related to promotion of Polish legal research in Eastern Europe, dissemination of knowledge concerning Polish legal institutions as well as experience gained during the time of the so-called constitutional transformation and the process of adjustment of Polish legal standards to the EU benchmark, in furtherance of an intensification of Polish–Ukrainian research cooperation and support of mutual research initiatives. The outpost is

also tasked with establishing contacts with entities other than academic (non-governmental organizations of the watch-dog type, whose statutory activity entails, *inter alia*, monitoring of compliance with the rule of law, abiding by human rights, involvement in the political decision-making process and lobbying in favour of social-political reforms), and organizations with an economic profile (entrepreneurs, employers, exporters and importers). It is anticipated that operation of such a foreign gateway will ultimately become a forum of cooperation between Polish science and scholars on the one hand and, on the other, entities carrying out economic activity on the Ukrainian market as well as organizations belonging to its “third sector”. The intention, therefore, is to turn the Centre into an effective tool of extracting experts, whose specialist knowledge in the fields of law and the constitution will be utilized to usher in reforms and significantly conduce to an upturn in the level of cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian think tanks and sectoral business organizations.

Among the successful results of the project hitherto are, for instance: the entering into close cooperation of the Faculty of law and Administration of Warsaw University with the Faculty of Law of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and the Polish–Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, participation of Polish scholars and practitioners in numerous Ukrainian conferences, several debates between Polish and Ukrainian experts devoted to, *inter alia*, a reform of Ukrainian administrative procedures, the opening of the School of Polish Law in Kiev, visits of Ukrainian academics in Warsaw and their participation as speakers in academic conferences, launch of internship programmes for Ukrainian representatives of non-governmental organizations in Poland and participation of Polish teams in international competitions, tournaments and student conferences organized in Ukraine.

Ukraine may call upon a plethora of historical references in the currently unfolding process of reinforcing its state and national autonomy: Kievan Rus’, Cossacks (from 16th to 18th century) and national rebirth in the 19th century. A special role in that last process was played by national universities: in Kharkiv (founded in 1805), Kiev (1834) and Odessa (1864). It is with the Kiev university, established as the Saint Vladimir University and renamed the Taras Shevchenko University, that our Centre for Promotion of Polish Legal Research primarily collaborates with.

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