PREFACE BY THE IRZ

Due to the good cooperation between both organisations, the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (*Deutsche Stiftung für internationale rechtliche Zusammenarbeit e.V.*, shortly *IRZ*) is supporting the edition of the journal "HARMONIUS – Journal for Legal and Social Studies in South-East Europe" also in the year 2018. This way it would like to contribute to giving young lawyers from the region, who are particularly interested in the harmonisation of the law of their home countries with European law and in regional cooperation, the opportunity to publish articles. In doing so, they will improve their personal qualifications and at the same time make a contribution to extending the knowledge about European law as well as to the expert exchange between lawyers from their home countries and other European countries.

The publication is already the 7th volume of the journal. Like in the past, it covers a wide range of topics related to European Law, legal harmonisation and international best practices in law.

The IRZ would also like to thank the HARMONIUS Network as a whole for the excellent cooperation in every respect. Furthermore, the IRZ would especially like to thank the German Federal Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection and the German Foreign Ministry, which support the activities of the IRZ in various ways. Without this funding a cooperation like this would not be possible. The ongoing support of initiatives such as HARMONIUS from the federal government budget (and thus from the German taxpayers' contributions) shows that Germany is strongly involved in the region of South-East Europe, with which it has traditionally maintained manifold relations. (Other examples of IRZ's activities in the field of legal publications in the region may be found in the internet under *http://www.kontinentalno-pravo.info/*, *www.evropsko-pravo.info*, and *http://nova-pravna-revija.info*.) In addition to that these three legal journals may be downloaded from HARMONIUS' own webpage *www.harmonius.org*). Moreover a big number of German Laws and otherwise interesting legal information

translated in the languages of the region may be found in the download section of IRZ's webpage under "Publikacije i pr(ij)evodi na bosanski, crnogorski, hrvatski I srpski".

The signatory also wishes to express, his sincere thanks to Mr. Rita Linderoth who has organised the cooperation with HARMONIUS in her function as IRZ Project Manager in a very competent and dedicated way.

For those who are interested in finding out more about the activities of the IRZ, please read the article on the interdisciplinary Symposium "Transformation of Law in Southeastern Europe: The Example of the Former Yugoslavia: Preconditions, Actors, Achievements and Failures – A Preliminary Stocktaking" which took place in Berlin on 16 November 2017.

Further information about the IRZ in English but also in German, Russian and Arabic, is available at *www.irz.de*. This website also posts regular announcements of current events and other activities of the IRZ in South-East Europe as well as other states.

The IRZ hopes that the journal will continue to be supported also in 2019 and wishes all readers a pleasant and informative read.

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