

## PREFACE BY THE IRZ

The German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (*Deutsche Stiftung für internationale rechtliche Zusammenarbeit e.V.*, shortly *IRZ*) is happy to support the edition of the journal “HARMONIUS – Journal for Legal and Social Studies in South-East Europe” also in the year 2019.

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 8th 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. 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 Senior 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 respective article in this edition of the

HARMONIUS journal. 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 wishes all readers a pleasant and informative read.

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at the IRZ