

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 2020.

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 9th 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 and Dr. Mirjana Glintic who organised the cooperation with HARMONIUS in their function as IRZ Senior Project Manager resp. IRZ's local manager in Serbia 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.

In addition, we draw your attention to another of IRZ's publication project the magazine „Kontinentalno pravo – časopis za održiv i skladan razvoj prava“, in short KoPra (Continental Law – Journal for sustainable and expedient legal development, <https://kontinentalno-pravo.info>) which deals with continental European law, especially against the background of the current legal changes in the course of the transformation process and supports a goal-oriented development of law.

The IRZ wishes all readers a pleasant and informative read.

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