

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Editors are proud to present the latest issue of *Harmonius – Journal of Legal and Social Studies in South East Europe 2023*. This journal aims at fostering and promoting harmonisation of law in the SEE region with EU law and with general principles of international law, whilst providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and scholarly work of young scholars from the region and beyond. In accordance with the mission of the journal, as well as the main objectives of the Harmonius Association, this issue of the journal features 12 original research articles and three contributions on important topics, all of which were presented at an annual international conference – the XVIII Harmonius School of Law “Business and Legal Challenges of the Open Balkan” with participation of the prominent legal scholars, experts, and practitioners from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia. The Conference was organized by the Harmonius Association in cooperation with the Judicial Academy of the Republic of Serbia and was held on November 24th, 2023 at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Law and at the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia. The Organising Team of this year’s Conference consisted of: Associate Professor Dr. Nenad Tesić, Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Djordjević, Teaching Assistants Marija Vlajković, Stefan Jovanović, Mina Kuzminac and Darko Stevanović. This was the eighteenth Harmonius School of Law and in seven different panels it tackled very important and current issues for this region from several legal aspects: procedural, corporate, labor, international, European, private, and public, adding political and economic approaches as well. The first panel “The influence of the EU law on the Open Balkan Countries’ Legal Systems” was moderated by Professor Dr. Bojan Milisavljević, Vice-Dean at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law. This was followed by the panel “Private Procedure Law in the Open Balkan”, moderated by Professor Dr. Marko Knežević and panel “Other Relevant Topics Relevant for the Legal Harmonization in the Region of the Open Balkan”, moderated by Teaching Assistant, Marija Vlajković, LL.M. The afternoon session taking place in the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia was opened with the panel “Regional Cooperation Agreements in

the Balkans as a Condition for the Attraction of Foreign Investment”, moderated by Ass. Professor Dr. Milena Djordjević, after which Professor Dr. Vuk Radović moderated the panel “Business Law Aspects of the Agreement on Regional Cooperation in the Balkans”. Professor Dr. Ljubinka Kovačević chaired “Labor Law Aspects of the Agreement on Regional Cooperation in the Balkans” panel, while Professor Dr. Mirjana Radović chaired the final closing panel of the Conference “Possibilities of the Artificial Intelligence Use in Balkans’ Judiciary. Numerous relevant questions were raised during the panel discussions, not only by the authors presenting their respectful contributions and participants but also by moderators and the members of the audience and Academia.

Members of the Editorial Board are particularly grateful to the Judicial Academy of the Republic of Serbia for their continuous support to organization of Harmonius’ conferences and to the publication of this issue of the journal. Furthermore, we are equally grateful to the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia for their support and cooperation in organizing the second part of this year’s Conference. We are also indebted to distinguished professors and scholars who, despite their busy schedules, agreed to review the articles submitted for this issue. In addition to that, the Editorial Board wishes to thank all the contributors without whom the publication of this issue would not have been possible. We believe that the contributions to this issue will be of ample interest to the wide-ranging public in South East Europe, especially having in mind the general topic of this year’s issue and its relevance for this region. We also hope that this issue will enhance interest in publishing in this journal in the future, and that it will continue to attract authors from numerous jurisdictions, thus leading to the full accomplishment of our mission.

Editors