

Preface

Fascination with time is a natural consequence of the fact that the time category is a universal concept by which individuals or societies perceive reality. Time accompanies every aspect of individual and collective life. Thus, in all these diverse areas the question arises on the approach to time. Different ways of understanding time and, above all, temporal orientations construed as attitudes towards time zones, are increasingly of interest also to legal sciences. Intertemporal regulations, understood today as statutory intertemporal solutions, are intrinsically linked not to natural time but to artificial time. Time in law as a type of social time is not continuous, so it also gains quantitatively qualitative flavour. Unlike the astronomical time, which is uniform and quantitative, legal time is a social product and therefore variable and differently shaped by different societies. The legal system created by these societies builds upon a different temporal framework, both in the way of a defined set of statutory provisions that stem from the legislator's decision and the intertemporal solutions themselves, i.e. any legal solution of an intertemporal problem adopted as part of a legal culture of a particular society. Although the category of time is only one element of intertemporal law, the historical perspective was in general a starting point for the reflection on this subject. Today, it is primarily an area of interest construed as a field of legal solutions pertaining to changes in law in relation to legal situations with an old element. It is not only the complexity of legal interpretation but, above all, the complexity of the structure of legal texts which is specific to intertemporal law and which, as far as statutory enactment is concerned, cannot be reduced to replacing parts of a legal text by another.

This book would have never been written had it not been for Jarosław Mikołajewicz, as the author of the theory of intertemporal law, but also an equally important research team working on intertemporal issues. Without a doubt, one has to possess an extraordinary gift not only to convince other researchers, advancing their studies in such diverse legal disciplines, to one's concepts but to instil in them a desire to work together and share their own thoughts of both theoretical and practical significance. Intertem-

poral issues are today an indispensable part of the law application, since posing and solving intertemporal problems is in fact an integral part of the work in all legal professions. Comprehensive studies of intertemporal issues were the dream of Jarosław Mikołajewicz, a dream which by its very nature had to extend over time. His sudden death caused the publication of the results of his and the whole team research in English to become all the more necessary.

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