



INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW
BELGRADE

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

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INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

Editors
Prof. Dr. Nataša Mrvić Petrović
Aleksandra Višekruna, M.A.
Ivana Višnjić, M.A.

BELGRADE 2025.





FOREWORD

This monograph was prepared to mark the 70th anniversary of the Institute of Comparative Law, which was established in 1955 by decision of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Its aim is to provide an overview of the decades-long tradition of scholarly research that has evolved at the Institute of Comparative Law. It also highlights the Institute's steadfast commitment to comparative legal studies and the modernisation of legislation in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, later, in the Republic of Serbia. Last but not least, it showcases the Institute's most recent scholarly output and the projects completed over the past five years.

This monograph presents a brief but systematic overview of the activities and development of the Institute from its founding to the present day. Over time, the character and diversity of legal challenges related to the improvement and modernisation of Serbian legislation have evolved. Accordingly, the Institute of Comparative Law has been conducting both fundamental and applied research designed to meet the demands of contemporary society and legal science. Through comparative legal analysis and critical examination of foreign legal systems — national, supranational, and international — the Institute continues to pursue its mission: contributing to the advancement of legal scholarship, enhancing existing legislative frameworks, and aligning domestic law with the most effective legal solutions developed in foreign legal systems.

Prof. Dr. Jelena Čeranić Perišić

FOUNDING OF THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

The Institute of Comparative Law was established by a decree of the Federal Executive Council in 1955,¹ signed by Josip Broz Tito, President of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. The founding decree set out the Institute's principal objectives as follows: collecting and organising data on legislation, developments in the field of legal science, and practice in foreign jurisdictions; providing expert opinions on specific comparative law issues or foreign legislation and legal practice to governmental bodies and institutions; informing foreign legal audiences about the legislation, legal theory, and legal practice of Yugoslavia; and cooperating with foreign institutions and international organisations active in the field of comparative law.


By the same decree, Professor Dr Borislav T. Blagojević was appointed as the Institute's first director. The Institute started with its activities on 1 January 1956, making it one of the oldest institutions dedicated to the research in the field of comparative law globally.

The Institute's premises are located in the courtyard section of a building situated behind an architecturally noteworthy edifice at 41 Terazije Street, in downtown



Belgrade. The edifice was declared a cultural monument in 1965 and later recognised as a national cultural asset of exceptional importance. Originally constructed to house the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Serbia and the administrative district of that part of Belgrade, the building was designed by architects Svetozar Ivačković and Jovan Subotić and constructed between 1882 and 1883. It stands on the perimeter of the Terazije block in Belgrade, adjacent to the royal complex on Kralja Milana Street. Due to its architectural and cultural-historical significance, it is considered one of the most distinguished administrative buildings in the Serbian capital. It ranks among

¹ Official Record No. 290 dated 16 July 1955, *Official Gazette of the FPRY* No. 33/55.

<p>Na osnovu čl.93 Ustavnog zakona, Savezno izvršno veće donosi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U R E D B U o Institutu za uporedno pravo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 1</p> <p>Osniva se Institut za uporedno pravo, sa sedištem u Beogradu.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 2</p> <p>Institut za uporedno pravo:</p> <p>1/ prikuplja i sređuje podatke o stanju zakonodavstva, pravne nauke i prakse u pojedinim zemljama;</p> <p>2/ daje državnim organima i ustanovama na njihov zahtev mišljenje o pojedinim problemima sa gledišta uporednog prava, ili o stranom zakonodavstvu ili praksi određene zemlje;</p> <p>3/ organizuje i pomaže obaveštavanje inostrane pravne javnosti o stanju zakonodavstva i pravne nauke i prakse u Jugoslaviji;</p> <p>4/ sarađuje sa sličnim ustanovama u drugim zemljama, kao i sa međunarodnim organizacijama koje se bave uporednim pravom.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 3</p> <p>Institutom upravlja Svet Institutu.</p> <p>Svet utvrđuje plan rada i predlog predračuna Instituta i donosi zaključke o svim mačelnim pitanjima koja se tiču organizacije i rada Instituta.</p> <p>Članove Saveta imenuje Savezno izvršno veće na dve godine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 4</p> <p>Institut ima redovne i dopisne članove.</p> <p>Redovne i dopisne članove bira Svet Institutu.</p> <p>Redovni članovi imaju pravo da učestvuju u izboru novih redovnih i dopisnih članova, kao i druga prava određena u pravilima Instituta.</p> <p>Redovni i dopisni članovi Instituta imaju pravo da drže predavanja u Institutu i da pokreću pojedina pitanja o kojima raspravlja Svet.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- 2 -</p> <p>Pri obnavljanju Saveta Instituta, većina članova Saveta imenuje se iz reda redovnih članova Instituta.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 5</p> <p>Radom Instituta rukovodi direktor.</p> <p>Direktora postavlja i smenjuje Savezno izvršno veće na predlog Saveta Instituta.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 6</p> <p>Institut ima potreban broj naučnih i stručnih saradnika i drugih službenika.</p> <p>Izbor naučnih i stručnih saradnika vrši Svet Institutu, a potvrđuje Odbor za prosvetu Saveznog izvršnog veća.</p> <p>Druge službenike postavlja i o njihovim službeničkim odnosima rešava direktor Instituta.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 7</p> <p>Institut ima poseban predračun prihoda i rashoda u sastavu predračuna Saveznog izvršnog veća.</p> <p>Direktor Instituta je naredbodavac za izvršenje predračuna.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 8</p> <p>Savezno izvršno veće ili organ koji ono određi može Institutu staviti u zadatak proučavanje određenog pravnog pitanja u vezi sa zakonodavstvom i praksom drugih zemalja.</p> <p>Zakleti kojima drugi državni organi i ustanove traže od Instituta mišljenje o pojedinim problemima (čl. 2 tač.2), poškone se Sekretarijatu za zakonodavstvo i organizaciju Saveznog izvršnog veća, a Institut daje mišljenja samo o onim zahtevima koje mu ovaj Sekretarijat dostavi.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 9</p> <p>Pravila o unutrašnjoj organizaciji i radu Instituta donosi Svet Institutu na suglasnost Saveznog izvršnog veća.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Član 10</p> <p>Ova uredba stupa na snagu danom objavljivanja u "Službenom listu FNR".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Savezno izvršno veće</p> <p>Sp.br. 290 16. jula 1955 godine Beograd</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Predsednik Republike, </p>
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the first representative public buildings erected in the Kingdom of Serbia and is one of the few remaining structures from that period of the development of state administration.²

ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

The Institute of Comparative Law holds the status of a public scientific research institution. It is the only scientific institute in the country entirely dedicated to legal sciences, and it is a part of the research organisations operating in the field of social sciences.

Since its inception, the activities of the Institute have been evolving in several distinct areas: scientific research; organisation of scientific conferences and other events involving legal scholars and practitioners; cooperation with state bodies and other public institutions through the provision of expert opinions on specific legal matters; familiarising the domestic expert public with the devel-

2 A. Kadijević, "O arhitekturi palate Ministarstva pravde i Uprave kvarta terazijskog", u: *Prvih 50 godina Instituta za uporedno pravo* (ur. V. Rakić Vodinić et al.), Beograd, Institut za uporedno pravo, 2006, 6-8.

opments in foreign legal systems; provision of information on the Serbian legal system to foreign entities; and development of institutional cooperation with international organisations and foreign research institutions.

The Institute's primary mission is to carry on the fundamental and applied scientific research within the strategic framework of scientific development in the Republic of Serbia. This includes critically analysing and presenting legislative solutions developed in other countries and supranational organisations, as well as innovations within the field of international law, to legal practitioners and the broader public. The Institute also conducts expert legal analyses and provides training to young scholars in the field of scientific legal research.

The vision of the Institute is to preserve and enhance its identity as an institution that contributes to shaping the development of Serbia's legal framework in accordance with contemporary developments in legal science. This vision is achieved through the continuous advancement of the capacity of its researchers to carry on high-level scientific research in the field of law.



Directors of the Institute

Throughout its existence, the Institute of Comparative Law has been headed by a number of distinguished legal scholars who have served as its directors. Their academic and professional contributions to the development of legal science in Serbia have significantly influenced the course of the Institute's own development and its position within national and international legal scholarship arena.



Professor Dr Borislav T. Blagojević

Professor Blagojević graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade in 1933 and earned his doctorate in 1934. He pursued a long and successful academic career at the Faculties of Law in Belgrade and Subotica, serving as Rector of the University of Belgrade from 1956 to 1963. He was a corresponding member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Serbian Scientific Society. As the founder and first

head of the Institute, serving as director from 1956 to 1978, he greatly contributed to the Institute's global reputation.

As a world-renowned and respected scholar in the fields of civil law and comparative law, he was a full member of the International Academy of Comparative Law in The Hague, a member of the Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome, and an honorary doctor of the University of Poznań (Poland) and the University of Clermont-Ferrand (France). Since 1963, he had served as a professor at the International Faculty for the Teaching of Comparative Law, based in Mexico City, in the founding of which the Institute of Comparative Law had taken part.

Professor Blagojević's scholarly work primarily belongs to the following fields: civil law, Roman law, civil procedural law, and comparative law.



Professor Dr Vladimir Jovanović

Professor Jovanović graduated in 1950 from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade and earned his doctoral degree from the same faculty in 1955, after which he was appointed as an assistant professor and went on to build a successful academic career at the same institution. In 1956, he obtained a diploma from the European University Centre in Nancy (France). From 1983 to 1985, he served as Dean of the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. As an invited lecturer, he taught at a number of foreign universities, including those in Paris, Strasbourg, Lisbon, Cairo, Alexandria, and others.

From 1978 until his sudden demise in 1993, he served as Director of the Institute of Comparative Law, making a significant personal contribution to the Institute's activities and striving to maintain its standing and reputation amid increasingly unfavourable political and economic conditions in the country.

As a recognised expert in commercial law, he was for many years an arbitrator with the Permanent Foreign Trade Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce of Yugoslavia. He also held the positions of President of the National Business Lawyers Association and President of the Arbitration Court of the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia.

Professor Jovanović's scholarly work evolved in the fields of insurance law, corporate commercial law, and civil law in general.

Professor Dr Milorad Josipović

Dr Josipović was professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, where he served as Dean from 1983 to 1985. He was Director of the Institute from 1993 to 1997, and his main expertise was in the field of labour law.





Professor Dr Oliver Antić

Professor Antić completed his legal studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, where he earned his doctorate in 1993. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, between 1998 and 2000, and was Director of the Institute from 1997 to 2001. His scholarly work focused on inheritance law and civil law.



Professor Dr Vesna Rakić Vodinelić

She completed her law studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 1973. She earned her master's degree in 1978 and her PhD from the same faculty in 1981. From 1975 to 1998, she was employed at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, first as a research assistant and later as a faculty member.

From 2001 to 2007, she served as Director of the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade. Under her leadership, the Institute engaged in extensive research on the harmonisation of domestic law with the legal system of the European Union, while its associates increasingly addressed issues related to the protection of human rights. Since 2002, she has also served as a full professor at the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade, and from 2007 to 2010, she held the position of Dean of that faculty. She is a corresponding member of the International Academy of Comparative Law in Paris.

The majority of Professor Rakić Vodinelić's scholarly work concerns civil procedural law, civil law, and human rights.



Professor Dr Vesna Besarović

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 1968, where she also obtained her master's degree in 1973 and her PhD in 1976. She was employed at the same faculty from 1973 onwards, first as a research assistant and later as a faculty member. She served as head of the French-Yugoslav department for specialist studies established in cooperation with the European University Centre in Nancy (France), focusing on European Union law. She was also an arbitrator at the International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration in Paris, an arbitrator and member of the Presidency of the Foreign Trade Arbitration in Belgrade, and an expert for the European Union Agency for Reconstruction. She served as Director of the Institute of Comparative Law in 2007.

Professor Besarović's scholarly work primarily evolved in the fields of commercial law and intellectual property law.



Scientific Advisor Dr Jovan Ćirić

Dr Ćirić graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, where he obtained his master's degree in 1990 and his PhD in 2000. Since 1985, he had worked as a researcher at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research. In 2000, he joined the Institute of Comparative Law, where he was promoted through all academic ranks over the course of his successful scientific career. From 2014 to 2016, he served as a member of the Commission for the Acquisition of Academic Titles at the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia. He also taught postgraduate courses at the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade, as well as at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. He held the position of judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia from December 2016 until his demise in December 2022.

From 2007 to 2016, Dr Ćirić was Director of the Institute of Comparative Law. He was committed to advancing the Institute's scientific activities and restoring its academic reputation. During his tenure, the Institute's research activities expanded to include the prevention of corruption, the relationship between law and religion, national legal tradition, and legal issues related to various political and social topics (the work of the Hague Tribunal, the crisis in Kosovo and Metohija, the NATO aggression, migrations, and others).

For his scholarly work, he was rewarded by the Ministry of Science in 2004 and by the Serbian Association for Criminal Law Theory and Practice in 2013. Dr Ćirić's dedication was instrumental in the Institute being awarded the Gold Medal of Merit of the Republic of Serbia (the so-called Sretenje Medal) in 2016, on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. He also received the Professor Dr Borislav T. Blagojević Award in recognition of his contribution to the development of the Institute, on the occasion of its 65th anniversary in 2021.

Dr Ćirić's primary fields of scholarly interest were criminal law, criminology, and human rights. He also took an interest in the philosophy and sociology of law.



Professor Dr Vladimir Čolović

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 1991, where he also obtained his master's degree in 1994. In the same year, he completed a specialisation in international contract law. Professor Čolović earned his PhD from the same faculty in 2000. He has taught at several faculties of law in Serbia and the Republic of Srpska and served for a time as Dean of the Faculty of Legal Sciences at the Pan-European University "Apeiron" in Banja Luka.

He joined the Institute of Comparative Law in 2009 and was awarded the scientific research title of research fellow in 2012. From the end of 2016 until February 2024, he served as Director of the Institute. He received the Charter of the Association for Tort Law in 2014 for outstanding merit and scholarly contributions to the development of insurance law, and in 2015 he was awarded the Institute of Comparative Law Prize for scientific contribution. From 2021 to 2023, he was President of the Business Lawyers Association of Serbia.

His scholarly work is distinguished by his contributions to insurance law, commercial law, and private international law.



Professor Dr Jelena Čeranić Perišić

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 2003, and the following year completed specialist studies in European Union law, jointly organised by that institution and the European University Centre, University of Nancy. She obtained her master's degree from the European University Centre, University of Nancy in 2005, and defended her doctoral dissertation at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 2010.

Professor Čeranić has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2006. Throughout her career, she has been promoted through all scientific research ranks, culminating in the title of research fellow in 2021. In 2019, she was appointed associate professor at Faculty of Legal Sciences at the Pan-European University "Apeiron" in Banja Luka. She is also a full professor at the Faculty of Applied Arts in Belgrade.

Since February 2024, she has headed the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade. After serving as Acting Director, she was officially appointed Director of the Institute in September 2024.

The principal fields of her academic interest are intellectual property law and European Union law.

Organisational structure

The governing bodies of the Institute of Comparative Law include the Management Board, the Director, and the Scientific Council.

The Management Board was appointed by Decision No. 119-4009/2023 of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, dated 18 May 2023.³ The Chair of the Management Board is Professor Emeritus Dr Mirko Vasiljević, University of Belgrade.

Members of the Management Board are:

- Professor Dr Zorica Vukašinović Radojičić, Full Professor, University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, Belgrade;
- Professor Dr Miodrag Panić, Full Professor, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade;

³ Official Gazette RS, No. 40/23.

- Professor Dr Zvonimir Ivanović, Full Professor, University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, Belgrade;
- Professor Dr Vladimir Đurić, Scientific Advisor, Institute of Comparative Law;
- Dr Ana Knežević Bojović, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Comparative Law, (Deputy Chair of the Management Board);
- Dr Miloš Stanić, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Comparative Law.

The Scientific Council of the Institute is the body mandated to guide its scientific development. It is composed of all full-time researchers holding scientific titles employed by the Institute. Currently, the Council has 22 members — 3 scientific advisors, 12 senior research associates, and 7 research associates. The Chair of the Scientific Council is Dr Jelena Kostić, Senior Research Associate, and the Deputy Chair is Dr Miloš Stanić, Senior Research Associate.

Former researchers

Over the decades, the Institute of Comparative Law has been home to distinguished researchers whose scholarly contributions have shaped the development of legal science in Serbia and abroad. The following is a list of some of the notable former researchers whose work made part of the Institute's scientific legacy:

Vida Čok,	Ilija Babić,	Dragana Knežić-Popović,
Miodrag Jovičić,	Ksenija Sigulinski,	Silvija Panović Đurić,
Miodrag Janjić,	Srđan Stojanović,	Dobrosav Mitrović,
Olga Šuica,	Mihailo Stojanović,	Jakov Radišić,
Jelena Vilus,	Radomir V. Lukić,	Ratko Marković,
Marija Toroman,	Mitar Kokolj,	Zoran Radović,
Svetlana Arsenić,	Dragan Kostić,	Dragoljub Stojanović,
Vladislav Blagojević,	Zorica Radović,	Lidija Basta,
Kosta Čavoški,	Žarko Milanović,	Ana Đorić,
Dušan Crnogočević,	Stevan Mijučić,	Boris Krivokapić,
Ivica Jankovec,	Vesna Živković,	Aleksandra Čavoški,
Ljubiša Jovanović,	Genc Trnavci,	Monika Milošević,
Lucija Spirović Jovanović,	Katarina Damnjanović,	Ljubiša Dabić,
Zlatija Đukić Veljović,	Goran Dajović,	Jelena Lepetić,
Vrleta Krulj,	Igor Vuković,	Dejan Šuput,
Desanka Dugić Lazarević,	Marija Karanikić,	Fernanda Fernandez Jankov,
Dušan Lovrić,	Ljubinka Kovačević,	Ivanka Spasić,
Ljubiša Lazarević,	Dušan Popović,	Saša Gajin,
Đurica Krstić,	Dušan Vranjanac,	Luka Breneselović,
Jasna Pak,	Vladimir Cvijan,	Ivana Rakić,
Ljubiša Dabić,	Robert Sepi,	Jovan Ćirić,
Milan Petrović,	Milena Vujović,	Velimir Živković,
Dijana Marković Bajalović,	Snežana Stojanović,	Marina Matić Bošković,
Aleksandar Lojpur,	Vesna Rakić Vodinelić,	Stefan Andonović,

Predrag Vukasović,
Iva Tošić,
Jovana Misailović,

Vladimir Čolović,
Ana Čović,
Vasilije Marković,

Dragan Prlja,
Bogdana Stjepanović,
Gordana Gasmi

Former librarians and administrative staff

Over the years, the Institute has benefitted from the contributions of dedicated librarians and administrative personnel whose service supported its daily operations and research endeavours.

Librarians:

Caca Iličković,
Milica Stojković,
Sanvila Teslić,
Ivanka Todorović,
Ana Popović,
Vera Vukelić,
Đurđica Mučibabić,
Nevenka Žalac.

Administrative Personnel:

Ivana Radomirović (Secretary),
Slavica Ninković (Secretary),
Predrag Cenić (Secretary),
Nada Borovski (Accountant), and
Vesna Fijan (Administrative Secretary).

Current researchers and staff

The Institute of Comparative Law is composed of a team of highly qualified researchers and administrative staff. Each member contributes to the Institute's mission through academic research and related scientific activities in various legal disciplines, as well as through other forms of professional engagement.

Below is a list of researchers by position and area of expertise and a list of other staff members.

Researchers



Prof. Dr Jelena Čeranić Perišić

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2003. She completed specialist studies jointly organised by the same faculty and the European University Centre, University of Nancy in 2004. She earned her master's degree from the European University Centre, University of Nancy in 2005. She defended her doctoral thesis with honours at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2010.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2006. In March 2016, she was promoted to senior research associate, and in 2021 to the highest scientific title of a scientific advisor.

Field of Research

Intellectual property law, European Union law.

Prof. Dr Nataša Mrvić Petrović

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 1984. She obtained her master's degree in 1988 and earned her PhD in 1991 from the same faculty.

Professional Experience

From 1985 to 2000, she worked as a researcher at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade. From 2000 to 2003, and again, from 2013 to the present, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. Between 2003 and 2012, she was a full professor at the Faculty of Law, Union University.

Field of Research

Criminal law, criminology, compensation for damages.

**Prof. Dr Vladimir Đurić**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 1996. He obtained his master's degree from the same faculty in 2000, defending his thesis with honours. He earned his PhD in 2006 from the Faculty of Law, University of Niš.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2011. From 2000 to 2002, he worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From 2002 to 2006, he served as an advisor to the Minister in the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, and from 2006 to 2008, he was Assistant Director of the Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Between 2009 and 2012, he worked as an advisor to the Minister in the Ministry of Religion, and later in the Ministry of Religion and Diaspora.

Field of Research

Constitutional law, administrative law, human and minority rights, state-church law.

Dr Ana Knežević Bojović

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2000. In 2002, she went on to complete specialist studies in European Law, organised jointly by the same faculty and the European University Centre, University of Nancy, in 2002. She defended with honours her master's thesis in 2005. That same year, she passed the bar exam. In 2011, she defended her doctoral thesis with honours.



Professional Experience

Dr Knežević Bojović joined the Institute of Comparative Law in 2001. From November 2013 to April 2015, she worked as a policy coordinator at the National Alliance for Local Economic Development. From 2006 to September 2015, parallel to her work at the Institute, she was a teaching assistant in EU Law and Private International Law at the Faculty of Law, Union University.

Field of Research

European Union law, judicial organisation, judicial self-governance, judicial reform, human rights, rule of law, public sector integrity, and business law.

Dr Vesna Ćorić

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 2003. She completed her postgraduate (LL.M) studies in international human rights law at the School of Law, University of St. Thomas in Miami (United States) in 2005. She passed the bar exam in 2011 and earned her PhD from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2014.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since June 2006. Prior to her employment at the Institute, from October 2005 to June 2006, she worked as an associate on the project “Rule of Law in Serbia,” implemented by the National Center for State Courts and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Field of Research

Human rights, public international law, European Union law.

**Dr Katarina Jovičić**

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 1988 and passed the bar exam in 1990. She completed specialist studies in International Business Law in 2004 at the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade, where she also earned her master’s degree in 2006 and her PhD in 2012.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade since 2003. From 2005 to 2023, she taught at the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade — initially as a teaching associate and later as a lecturer. She began her professional career as an intern in a lawyer’s office. Afterwards, she was Secretary of the Faculty of Organisational Sciences and advisor at the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Field of Research

International commercial law.

Dr Jelena Kostić

She completed both her undergraduate and master's studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. She defended her doctoral dissertation in 2015 at the Faculty of Law, University of Niš.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2013. Prior to that, she worked as Secretary of the Anti-Doping Agency of the Republic of Serbia, as a legal associate at the Secretariat for Finance of the Belgrade City Administration, and as an internal auditor in the Belgrade City Internal Audit Service. She has also been engaged as a consultant on various projects funded by the European Union and the World Bank.

Field of Research

Criminal law and public finance.

**Dr Oliver Nikolić**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 1987. He defended his doctoral dissertation in 1997 at the Faculty of Law, University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 1992, first as a researcher and, since 1997, as a research fellow. From 2003 to 2005, he worked as a legal advisor in the Office of the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Since 2006, he has served as an advisor on the Judiciary Reform Strategy at the OSCE. He was an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade from 2002 to 2005, and at the Academy for Diplomacy and Security from 2007 to 2011.

Field of Research

Constitutional law, human rights, and LGBTQ law.

Dr Aleksandra Rabrenović

She obtained her LLM degree from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, LLM in Public Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her PhD degree from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK.

Professional Experience

She has been working at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2007. She has worked on a number of public sector reform projects in Southeast Europe and Central and East Asia for various international organisations (e.g., World Bank, EU, UNDP, SIGMA/OECD, etc.). She is the President of the Management Board of the organization "Children without Limits" which advocates for the rights of children and young people with intellectual disabilities.



Field of Research

Administrative law, public administration, and human rights law.

**Dr Mario Reljanović**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2000. He obtained his master's degree in 2007 and earned his PhD in 2011 from the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade.

Professional Experience

He was employed at the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade from 2004 to 2012 and again from 2018 to the present. From 2012 to 2018, he worked at the Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade.

Field of Research

Labour law, anti-discrimination law, human rights law, and legal informatics.

Dr Miloš Stanić

He completed his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2006, followed by a master's degree in 2008. He defended his doctoral dissertation at the same faculty in 2017.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2014. He previously worked at the Second Municipal Court in Belgrade, and then at the First Basic Court in Belgrade — initially as a judicial trainee and later as a judicial assistant. From December 2013 to June 2014, he was employed at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia in the Sector for European Integrations.

Field of Research

Constitutional law, public law, and sports law.

**Dr Jelena Vukadinović Marković**

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac. She completed her postgraduate studies at the Europa-Institut, Saarland University (Germany) in 2011. In the same year, she defended her master's thesis at the Faculty of Law, University of Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina). She earned her PhD with honours in 2016 at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade.

Professional Experience

Since 2011, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. Beginning with the 2017/2018 academic year, she has also taught European Union Law at the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Belgrade.

Field of Research

Arbitration law, international commercial law, and European Union law.

Prof. Dr Mina Zirojević

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. She obtained a master's degree from La Sapienza University in Rome (Italy) and earned her PhD from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade.

Professional Experience

Since 2013, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. Prior to joining the Institute, she worked at the Institute of International Politics and Economics. She also held positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

Field of Research

International law and security.

**Prof. Dr Samir Aličić**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad in 2003. He obtained his master's degree from the same faculty in 2007 and earned his PhD from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2011.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2023. From 2004 to 2012, he worked as an assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad. He subsequently served as assistant professor and then associate professor at the Department of Legal Sciences, State University in Novi Pazar, from 2012 to 2023. Since 2012, he has also been engaged as associate and full professor at the Faculty of Law, University of East Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). From 2015 to 2017, he held the position of assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Additionally, from 2016 to 2019, he served as a visiting professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Sassari (Italy).

Field of Research

Roman law, civil law, and constitutional theory.

Dr Jovana Rajić Čalić

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2013 and completed her master's studies at the same faculty in 2014. She defended her doctoral dissertation at the same faculty in 2023. She passed the bar exam in 2017.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since May 2018. Prior to that, she worked as an



intern at the Public Prosecutor's Office and at public enforcement agent's office in Paraćin.

Field of Research

Labour law, discrimination, and gender equality.



Dr Miroslav Đorđević

He completed his undergraduate, master's, and doctoral studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade.

Professional Experience

Since 2011, he has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. He worked as an assistant professor at the Law Department of the State University of Novi Pazar, teaching Constitutional and Administrative Law. He also served as the representative of the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ) in Serbia. Due to his election as a member and vice-president of the High Prosecutorial Council, his employment status is currently on hold until the end of the public office term to which he was elected.

Field of Research

Constitutional law.



Dr Mirjana Glinčić

She completed her undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2010, and obtained her master's degree at the same faculty in 2012. She earned her PhD in 2019 from the same faculty.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2011. Since 2020, she has also served as the local representative of the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation.

Field of Research

Civil law and insurance law.

Dr Savo Manojlović

He completed his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2008 and earned his master's degree in 2009. He received his PhD in 2021 from the same faculty.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2015. He previously worked as a junior advisor at the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia. As secretary of working groups within the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, he participated in drafting the current Law on Financing Political Activities and its amendments. In 2012, he served as the central coordinator for the Anti-



Corruption Agency in monitoring the financing of political campaigns during local, provincial, and general elections.

Field of Research

Constitutional law and administrative law.



Dr Milica V. Matijević

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2004. She completed her master's studies in 2005 at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, based in Venice (Italy). She earned her PhD from the Faculty of Law, University of Florence (Italy) in 2018.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2007. As a legal expert, she has been engaged in various rule of law projects funded by the European Union.

Field of Research

International human rights law.

Dr Vladimir Mikić

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2005. He earned his master's degree (M2) in European Law from the European University Centre, University of Nancy 2 (France), in 2007, and his PhD from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 2014.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2024. Prior to that, he worked as an associate at a renowned lawyer's office in Belgrade. Afterwards, he worked at the University of Belgrade, where he held various roles and, from 2019 to 2023, he served as General Secretary of the University. Before joining the Institute, he served as Assistant Director of the Office for Dual Education of the Serbian Government from February to December 2022.

Field of Research

Constitutional law.



Dr Dragana Petrović

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac in 1987, where she defended her master's thesis with honours in 1992, and earned her PhD in 1995.

Professional Experience

Since 2009, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. She began her career at the District Court in Kragujevac in 1988. In 1990, she joined the Faculty of Law in

Kragujevac as a junior assistant. Since 1996, as assistant professor, she has taught Criminal Law and supervised postgraduate studies. In 2000, she was appointed associate professor in the field of criminal law.

Field of Research

Criminal law, organised crime, terrorism, euthanasia, and human trafficking.

Aleksandra Višekruna

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 2011. She completed her master's studies at the same faculty in 2013.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2013.

Field of Research

Company law, bankruptcy law, capital markets law.



Ivana Višnjić

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2018 and completed her master's studies at the same faculty in 2020. She passed the bar exam in 2023 and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the same faculty.

Professional Experience

She has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2022. From 2019 to 2021, she worked as a legal trainee registered with the Belgrade Bar Association.

Field of Research

Civil law and law of obligations.

Anja Bezbradica

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2013, and earned her master's degree from the same faculty in 2015.

Professional Experience

Since 2022, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. From 2016 to 2022, she was employed at the Office of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection. During the same period, she was also engaged as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law for Business and Judiciary, University "Business Academy" in Novi Sad.

Field of Research

Sociology of law.



**Aleksandar Mihajlović**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Niš in 2014. He completed his master's studies at the same faculty in 2015. As a recipient of the Chevening Scholarship, he also earned a master's degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Sussex in Brighton (UK) in 2020.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2023. He worked as a legal trainee at a law firm in Niš (2014-2018) and as a junior advisor at the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies of the Government of Serbia.

Field of Research

Economic analysis of law and anti-discrimination law.

Milena Momčilov

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, where she also completed her master's studies in 2021.

Professional Experience

Since June 2022, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. Previously, she worked as a tax inspector in the Tax Administration Office in the City Municipality of Zvezdara, and as a legal advisor in the Office of the President of the Zvezdara City Municipality.

Field of Research

Commercial law, banking law, and law of negotiable instruments.

**Ljubomir Tintor**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2017, and completed his master's studies at the same faculty in 2018.

Professional Experience

Since September 2023, he has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. From 2020 to 2023, as a holder of a scholarship from the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia, he worked at the Institute of International Politics and Economics.

Field of Research

Public international law and human rights.

Dr Miloš Vasović

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2017 and defended his master's thesis at the same faculty in 2018. In 2025, he earned his PhD at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade.



Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2024. Prior to that, he worked as a legal trainee and afterwards as a lawyer.

Field of Research

Tax law.

**Ana Zdravković**

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2016, and completed her master's studies at the same faculty in 2017.

Professional Experience

Since 2023, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law. She worked as teaching assistant for the course in Public International Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, during the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years. From 2017 to 2020, she was employed as a legal trainee at the law office of Nebojša D. Maraš. She passed the bar exam in June 2021. On several occasions, she has been engaged as a consultant on various international projects.

Field of Research

Public international law, human rights, legal theory and philosophy, and gender law.

**Đorđe Marjanović**

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac in 2021. He completed his master's studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2023. Since 2023, he has been pursuing PhD research at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2024. From October 2022 to July 2024, he worked as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac, in the field of criminal law.

Field of Research

Civil law, sports law, and criminal law.

Đorđe Timotijević

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2023 and completed his master's studies at the same faculty in 2024.

Professional Experience

He has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2025.

Field of Research

Administrative law, legal history, and legal theory.



Administrative staff



Nikola Veljković – Secretary

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2009, and passed the bar exam in 2016. From 2009 to 2016, he worked at the Railway Technical School in Belgrade as the Secretary. He holds a professional certificate for secretaries in educational institutions. Since 2016, he has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law.

Vera Dopša – Courier, Cleaner

She completed elementary school in Zemun. In 1995, she joined the Institute of Comparative Law.



Marija Jovanović – Administrative Secretary

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2003. Since 2006, she has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law.

Mirjana Markov – Librarian

She earned her undergraduate degree in 2013 from the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, at the Department of Library and Information Science. She gained her first professional experience through internships and volunteering. She has been employed as the librarian at the Institute of Comparative Law since 2018.



Tomica Marković – Accountant

He earned a degree in economics in 2016, from the Faculty of Business Studies and Law at “Union – Nikola Tesla” University. He completed his master’s studies at the same university in 2020. Until 2017, he worked in the Financial Department at the Clinical Centre of Serbia. From 2017 until 2024, he worked as Head of Accounting in the elementary school “Branko Radičević” in Belgrade. Since 2024, he has been employed at the Institute of Comparative Law.

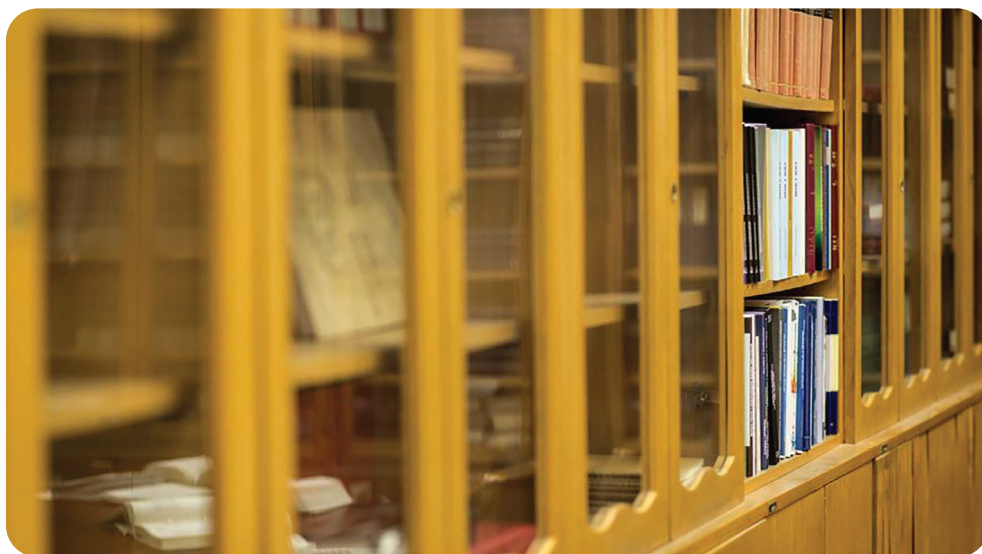




DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

The Institute of Comparative Law until the late 1980s

Since its founding in 1955, the Institute has undergone several changes in its legal status and organisational structure, prompted by evolving regulatory frameworks at both the federal and republican levels.



Significant alterations in the status and organisation of the Institute occurred between 1961 and 1962. These changes were aimed at transforming the Institute into an independent scientific institution that would also perform a set of activities aimed at providing support to federal government bodies. The changes were codified in the Decree on the Institute of Comparative Law,⁴ as well as in the Institute's Rules and the Rulebook on Remuneration adopted on 5 June 1962, pursuant to that Decree.

Further adjustments followed the adoption of the 1963 Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Basic Law on Institutions (1964), the General Law on the Organisation of Scientific Activities (1965), and the Law on Harmonisation of Federal Regulations on Institutions (1965). These developments were reflected in the Institute's Statute and internal regulations adopted at the end of 1965.

While retaining its status of a federal research institute in the field of law, the Institute underwent a series of transformations between 1965 and 1974 aligned with

⁴ *Official Gazette of the FPRY*, no. 16/62.



the broader process of self-managed organisation of scientific work, characteristic of the associated labour system developed in that period.

As part of the new constitutional order, the Law on the Institute of Comparative Law was adopted by decree on 26 April 1974,⁵ which served as the basis for the adoption of a new Statute of the Institute. Under this framework, the Institute was organised as an institution performing scientific research and activities of significance for the functioning of the federal institutions.

In fulfilling its primary mandate, the Institute devoted the majority of its early work to the comparative study of legal issues across various branches of law. The topics were selected for their relevance to the development of the Yugoslav legal system at that time.

The research topics were chosen in three principal ways. The first method, typical of the Institute's initial years, was based on tracking foreign legislation and legal theory deemed relevant to Yugoslav law. The second method emerged later and involved participation in competitions organised by the Federal Scientific Research Fund and later by the Science Community of Serbia for the development of research projects. The third method involved initiatives and suggestions from interested government bodies and organisations.

In addition to publishing numerous scientific monographs, the Institute also participated in scientific research projects initiated by bodies such as the Federal Council for the Coordination of Scientific Activities and later the Republic Science Community of Serbia.

By the end of 1960, the Institute had signed a contract for one research project, followed by two more in 1964. These yielded not only monographic studies but also proposals and recommendations for enhancement of the existing legis-

⁵ *Official Gazette of the SFRY*, no. 24/74.

lative framework. In 1966, a multi-party project on the legal status of youth was launched.

Between 1974 and 1980, the Institute signed nine contracts with the Science Community of the Republic of Serbia, focused on long-term research in fields such as legal theory, constitutional law, commercial law, international business law, and labour law.

In the same period, the Institute also engaged in projects initiated by specific government bodies or organisations. For instance, based on an agreement with the Federal Secretariat for Justice and Organisation of the Federal Administration, the Institute undertook six research projects in 1979 on diverse topics, including judicial organisation, civil procedure, administrative law, and labour law.

Another key area of activity that began in 1961 was the organisation of academic and professional conferences to comprehensively analyse and discuss legal issues relevant to Yugoslav law.⁶ The Institute acted either as the initiator and sole organiser or participated in the organisation of the conferences in cooperation with other institutions. These gatherings helped bring together legal and other professionals to discuss topical issues of interest.

From the outset, the Institute developed a cooperative relationship with state bodies and institutions by providing expert opinions and legal data from a comparative law perspective. Already in its first decade, it was recognised that behind the phrase “comparative legal expertise” lay “a rich variety of forms of collaboration and assistance offered by the Institute to domestic institutions and organisations”.⁷

This was possible not only because of the Institute’s research capacities but also because it functioned as the only documentation centre in former Yugoslavia specialising in foreign legal systems. Institute researchers were thus able to provide expert analyses of specific issues in foreign law and propose potential legal solutions.

During this period, the Institute regularly prepared expert reports, translated constitutional and legislative texts into French and English, and published the bulletin *Index of Foreign Legal Books* in the Library of the Institute of Comparative Law. Particularly notable was the Institute’s cooperation with the French Centre for Comparative Law in Paris, the Research Centre on the USSR and Eastern Countries in Strasbourg, the Institute for Management Development in Cairo, and the International Association of Legal Sciences in Paris.

To familiarise foreign audiences with Yugoslav law, the Institute prepared national reports for the International Congresses of Comparative Law, held every four years by the International Academy of Comparative Law. Between 1958 and 1986, Institute representatives attended congresses in Brussels, Hamburg, Uppsala, Pescara, Tehran, Budapest, and Sydney/Melbourne. These national reports were published as standalone volumes.

By decision of the competent federal authorities, the Institute of Comparative Law was designated as the official representative of Yugoslavia in the Permanent

6 M. Toroman, “40 godina rada Instituta za uporedno pravo (1956-1996)”, *Strani pravni život*, 1-3/1996, 14.

7 “Deset godina rada Instituta za uporedno pravo”, *Strani pravni život*, 50/1966, 33.



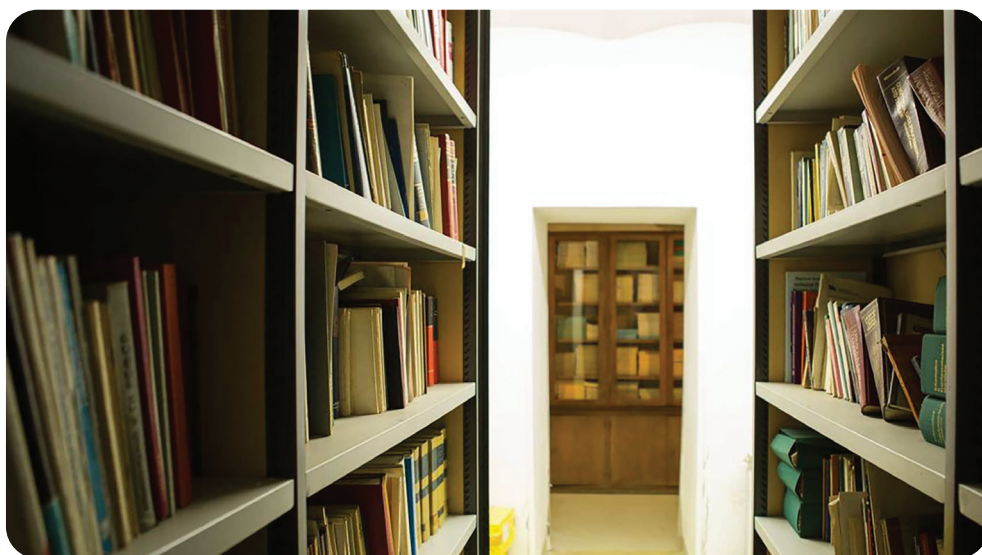
Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome (UNIDROIT). At UNIDROIT's request, in 1961, the Institute conducted a comparative study on forms of will and testament in 11 European jurisdictions (published in French). The Institute also played a significant role in the preparatory work for the Uniform Law on the International Sale of Goods (prepared by UNCITRAL) and in the drafting of the International Convention on the Determination of the Quality of Goods.

In the 1980s, the Institute focused on projects commissioned by the Science Community of the Republic of Serbia. These included five-year interdisciplinary projects, mainly on international contract and commercial law, as well as on other topics. In some cases, the Institute worked alongside lead institutions such as the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, and its Institute of Social Sciences. From 1982 to 1986, the Institute implemented 30 projects in public law and 26 in the civil law field for state bodies and organisations.

Throughout this time, the Institute continued to prepare comparative legal studies, expert opinions and overviews of foreign legislation and publish works dedicated to various legal disciplines in foreign legal systems. During this period, collaboration was also established with the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne (1982) and the European Centre for Social Science and Documentation in Vienna (1986).

The Institute of Comparative Law in the 1990s

Due to the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the civil war, and an adverse political and economic environment, the 1990s were marked by extremely difficult working conditions, characterised by a lack of access to contemporary legal literature and insufficient equipment. Despite these challenges, the Institute of Comparative Law managed not only to survive but also to preserve its



core activities and — thanks primarily to the dedication and enthusiasm of its researchers — further enhance its capacities for legal expertise and research.

In line with the new Law on Scientific Research Activities (1991), the organisational structure of the Institute was modified. The Management Board and Director were introduced as the governing bodies, while the Scientific Council assumed the role of a professional advisory body.

During this period, the Institute participated in an interdisciplinary research project led by the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, within which it coordinated and implemented three subprojects. As the principal institution, the Institute concluded agreements with the Science Community of the Republic of Serbia for the 1991–1996 period to carry out two interdisciplinary scientific research projects:

- “Contemporary Concepts of Freedom and Human and Citizen’s Rights in Comparative and International Law and Their Protection” (Team Leaders: Prof. Dr Vladimir Jovanović and, later, Prof. Dr Milorad Josipović)

- “New Organisational and Commercial Law Forms of International Business (Enterprises, Companies, Contracts) in Comparative Law” (Team Leader: Dr Zoran Radović)

- In the five-year period, from 1996 to 2000, the Institute implemented two additional projects under contract with the Science Community of the Republic of Serbia.

- The public law project, titled “Freedoms, Rights, and Duties of Man and Citizen – Their Protection and Limitations in Comparative and International Law”, was led by Dr Zorica Radović.

- The private law project, titled “The Trade in Goods and Services in Comparative Law”, was led by Dr Zoran Radović.

- The Institute continued to carry out legal research projects for various state bodies, institutions, and commercial entities, although over time, the number of

such projects gradually declined. This activity was eventually reduced to providing “legal consulting services and preparing documentation required for resolving specific legal questions or drafting expert studies”.⁸

The work of the Institute in the 21st century

In the new millennium, scholarly interest in comparative legal research was revitalised, primarily in connection with the process of political and, related to it, legal transition of Central and Eastern European states, as the former socialist countries. In this context, the Institute of Comparative Law demonstrated distinct advantages, given its longstanding tradition of monitoring the development of both Western European and socialist legal systems. This tradition enabled the Institute to engage in comparative research at a faster pace than similar institutions in Europe, especially those in the former Warsaw Pact countries.

In the field of legal comparativism, the Institute faced three main challenges:⁹

- facilitating Serbia and Montenegro’s legal approximation to the EU legal standards in the context of the European integrations;
 - strengthening the role of Serbia and Montenegro in international comparative legal research, particularly as the country reengaged with the United Nations and its agencies after 2000;
 - conducting high-quality comparative studies that would support fundamental legal reforms in the new state, in line with increasing public awareness of the importance of law and the rule of law.
- During the first decade of the 21st century, the Institute implemented several long-term projects, including:
- “Harmonization of Yugoslav Law with European Union Law” (2001–2003), commissioned by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), led by Dr Oliver Nikolić;
 - “Harmonization of Yugoslav Law with EU Economic Law and Council of Europe Standards” (2002–2005), Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection project no. 1255;
 - “The Law of Serbia and Montenegro and International Judicial Institutions” (2006–2010), Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection project no. 149023 D, led by Dr Jovan Ćirić.

In parallel, the Institute’s researchers were also engaged in several short-term projects across a broad range of topics — including public notaries, education councils, civil procedure reform, and cultural sector reforms — commissioned by relevant ministries and international organisations.

The Institute also played a significant role in drafting proposals for new or modified legislation across a variety of fields, which were accompanied by com-

⁸ M. Toroman, “40 godina rada Instituta za uporedno pravo (1956-1996)”, *Strani pravni život*, 1-3/1996, 14.

⁹ *Prvih 50 godina Instituta za uporedno pravo* (ed. V. Rakić Vodinelić et al.), Beograd, Institut za uporedno pravo, 2006, 12-13.



parative legal analyses. These included laws on housing credit insurance corporation, culture, diaspora, cooperatives, cultural heritage, a model law on supplementary health insurance, model anti-discrimination laws, and an action plan for the reform of the defence system, with accompanying legal drafts and commentary on military legislation. These activities were carried out in cooperation with, and with the support of, the relevant ministries.

Institute associates contributed to Serbia and Montenegro's EU accession efforts through participation in the drafting of the National Strategy for Accession to the European Union. The Institute also prepared a legal harmonisation study by analysing Yugoslav law against the standards laid down in the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental

Freedom, which was submitted by the national delegation when the country signed the Convention.

The second decade of the 21st century brought work on the major research project "Serbian and European Law – Comparison and Harmonization" (2011–2019), funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (project no. 179031), led by Dr Jovan Ćirić (2011–2016) and Prof. Dr Nataša Mrvić Petrović (2017–2019). In addition to this flagship project, many shorter projects were implemented with support from domestic ministries, public agencies, local governments, foreign governments, and international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and the European Union.¹⁰

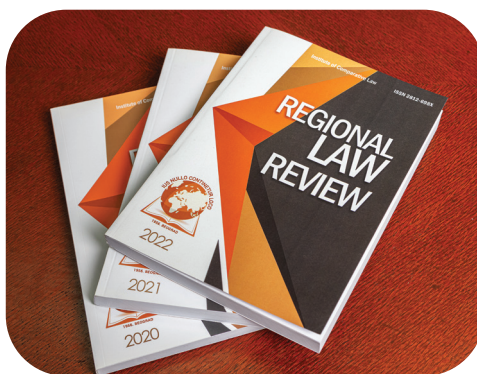
The Institute continued its tradition of organising major conferences featuring prominent experts from Serbia and abroad in various fields of law. Among the most notable for their continuity are:

- Conferences on tort law and insurance law, organised by the Institute since 2016, in cooperation with the Association for Tort Law and the Judicial Academy;
- Conferences on financial crime and organised crime, held since 2018 in cooperation with the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research;
- Three international conferences in Montenegro (2015, 2019, and 2023), organised with the Metropolitanate of Montenegro and the Littoral, focused on vari-

¹⁰ A detailed description of the projects for the period 2011–2021 is available in the monograph *65 Years of the Institute of Comparative Law*, edited by Aleksandra Višekruna, Vladimir Čolović, and Marija Markov (Institute of Comparative Law, Belgrade, 2021), 77–87.

ous aspects of state–church law, along with one national conference on the same topic (2021);

- The Regional Law Review conference, initiated in 2020¹¹ and dedicated to the legal systems of countries in the region, providing a forum for scholars to discuss pressing legal issues in their countries, as well as achievements and trends in legal science.



In addition to these recurring events, the Institute has hosted scientific conferences addressing other pressing social and legal issues, such as natural disasters, the migrant crisis, the impact of the internet and digitalisation, and the reform of the funding of scientific work. Some conferences were held to commemorate important events in national or global legal history.

Although the Institute's core activities have remained consistent since its founding, their implementation has evolved in response to social and technological changes. Part of its work is now focused on disseminating, promoting, and popularising research results via social media. In late 2022, the Institute established a Department for the Promotion of Scientific Results, which manages the Institute's website, LinkedIn, and Instagram profiles. These platforms are regularly updated with announcements of events held at the Institute, participation of its researchers in scientific gatherings and study visits, and previews of events organised or co-organised by the Institute. The publication catalogue is also regularly updated.

Since mid-2023, the Institute's website has featured a dedicated blog section where scientific and expert texts by Institute researchers — and researchers from partner institutions — are regularly published, fostering greater collaboration and the exchange of ideas on current legal topics.

Since September 2022, the Institute has successfully organised a scientific seminar series featuring lectures and roundtables on thought-provoking topics of interest to the legal community, as well as training sessions aimed at enhancing researchers' skills and knowledge. These seminars often include researchers from partner institutions and bring together not only the Institute's staff but also representatives of other academic, public, and private-sector institutions.

To increase the visibility and impact of its scientific publications, the Institute regularly organises promotional events.

In line with the Open Science Platform of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, since March 2022 the Institute has maintained an institutional repository to archive the scientific outputs of its researchers. Of the 2,009 records which it contains, 97% are available via open access, significantly increasing

¹¹ Partner institutions include the Faculty of Law at the University of Pécs (since 2020), the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana (since 2022), and the Faculty of Law at the University of Latvia (since 2023), while the Faculty of Law at the University of Osijek served as a co-organizer from 2020 to 2022.

the visibility of the Institute's work, facilitating access to scientific results, and promoting knowledge exchange. The repository is integrated with the national e-Science platform, enabling streamlined metadata input.

AWARDS GRANTED BY THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

On the occasion of the Institute's 40th anniversary in 1996, Dr Boris Krivokapić was awarded a recognition for his scientific achievements by the Institute of Comparative Law. In 2006, Dr Krivokapić received the Professor Dr Borislav T. Blagojević Award for the best work in the field of comparative and European law published in Serbia and Montenegro during the 2004–2005 period.

To mark the Institute's 60th anniversary in 2016, special recognition was awarded to Dr Vida Čok, a doyenne not only of the Institute but also of Yugoslav legal scholarship. On that occasion, she was awarded the honorary plaque of the Institute of Comparative Law. That same year, Professor Dr Vladimir Čolović and staff member Vera Dopša received awards from among the Institute's staff.

During the celebration of the Institute's 65th anniversary in 2021, the Professor Dr Borislav Blagojević Award was also given to Professor Dr Nataša Mrvić Petrović for achievements in scientific research, Dr Jovan Ćirić for contributions to the development of the Institute, and Aleksandra Višekruna, MA for the best young researcher.

In memory of the prematurely deceased colleague Dr Stefan Andonović, an award bearing his name was established with the aim of encouraging the scientific careers of young researchers, doctoral students, and early-career PhDs. The award is granted through a public competition for the best papers on topics that were of research interest to Dr Andonović. The first laureates were Vasilije Marković (first prize), Milena Momčilov (second prize), and Bojana Arsenijević (third prize). In 2024 the awardees were Antonije Živković (first prize), Janko Balšić (second prize), and Ljubomir Tintor (third prize). In 2025, Tamara Tasić (first prize), Tijana Kovačević (second prize) and Anđela Peković (third prize) were awarded.

RECOGNITIONS AWARDED TO THE INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

In 1981, the Institute of Comparative Law was awarded the Order of Merit for the People with a Silver Wreath, bestowed by the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the occasion of the Institute's 25th anniversary. The honour was granted "for exceptional merits in scientific research and significant contribu-

tions to the development and advancement of the theory and practice of comparative law.”¹²

The Institute’s first director, Professor Dr Borislav Blagojević, was awarded the Order of the Republic with a Golden Wreath for exceptional merits in public service and his contribution to the overall progress of the country. The Institute’s early associates — Dr Vida Čok, Dr Miodrag Janjić, Dr Marija Toroman, Dr Jelena Vilus, and Dr Stevan Mijučić — were decorated with the Order of Labour with a Golden Wreath for their professional contributions to the successful realisation of the Institute’s mission and to the development of comparative legal science.

On the occasion of its 60th anniversary, the Institute of Comparative Law was awarded the Gold Medal for Exceptional Merits in the Development of Legal Science, conferred on Sretenje in 2016, during the official celebration of the Republic of Serbia’s Statehood Day.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Institute of Comparative Law maintains successful collaboration with numerous domestic and international institutions, including research institutes, faculties, universities, state bodies, academies of sciences, governmental and non-governmental agencies, business entities, and other organisations and bodies (as listed below).

The Institute was formerly the official representative of Yugoslavia in the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. In that capacity, it maintained regular contact with the Permanent Bureau between sessions of the Conference and was responsible for preparing materials and organising the positions of the Yugoslav delegation.

Notably, the Institute of Comparative Law is currently the authorised representative of the Republic of Serbia to the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), headquartered in Rome. It is also an institutional member of the European Law Institute (ELI), based in Vienna, and its representatives regularly participate in ELI’s annual assemblies.

The Institute is a member of the Community of Institutes of Serbia (ZIS), and its researchers are regularly elected to ZIS bodies, actively contributing to the advancement of the position of scientists in the area of social sciences.

The Institute’s work has been marked by numerous forms of collaboration with both domestic and foreign institutions.

¹² M. Toroman, „Proslava dvadeset pet godina postojanja i rada Instituta za uporedno pravo i 70 godina života prof. Borislava Blagojevića”, *Strani pravni život*, 113/1981, 22.

**Governmental bodies of the Republic of Serbia:**

- Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Culture
- Restitution Agency
- Port Governance Agency
- Ombudsman
- Provincial Ombudsman – Vojvodina
- City of Novi Sad
- Commissioner for the Protection of Equality
- Agency for the Prevention of Corruption

Educational and Scientific Institutions:

- Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade
- Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad
- Faculty of Law, University of Niš
- University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, Belgrade
- Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac
- Faculty of Law, University of Priština (based in Kosovska Mitrovica)
- Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research
- Institute of International Politics and Economics
- Institute of European Studies
- Institute of Social Sciences (Institute of National Importance for the Republic of Serbia)

- Faculty of Law, Union University, Belgrade
- Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary, University of Business Academy, Novi Sad
- Department of Legal Sciences, State University of Novi Pazar
- Faculty for European Legal and Political Studies, Novi Sad
- Institute of Economic Sciences
- Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad
- Institute for Pedagogical Research
- Institute of Physics (Institute of National Importance for the Republic of Serbia)
- Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade
- Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development of Serbia
- Institute for Technology of Nuclear and Other Mineral Raw Materials (ITNMS) Belgrade

Other Institutions, Companies, and Agencies:

- Patriarchal Administrative Board of the Serbian Orthodox Church
- Institute for Textbooks and Teaching Aids
- Official Gazette, Belgrade
- Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
- Centre for Advanced Legal Studies
- Union of Doctors and Pharmacists of Serbia
- Union of Court Experts of Serbia
- Bar Association of Serbia
- Centre for Evaluation in Education and Science
- Serbian Sociological Society
- Svetigora Publishing House
- Intermex Publishing
- State Lottery of Serbia
- Association of Serbian Insurers
- “Dunav Osiguranje” Insurance Company
- South European Centre for Legal Studies
- Toplica Centre for Democracy and Human Rights
- Open Society Foundation
- Yugoimport AD, Belgrade
- Gerontological Society of Serbia
- Association for Compensation Law, Belgrade
- Association of Judges of Serbia
- Association of Public Prosecutors and Deputy Public Prosecutors

International and other partner organisations:

- Council of Europe
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Serbia
- Institut Français (French Institute)
- GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- IRZ – Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Rechtliche Zusammenarbeit
- USAID – United States Agency for International Development

Institutions in the region:

- Orthodox Metropolitanate of Montenegro and the Littoral
- Faculty of Law, University of Osijek, Croatia
- Faculty of Law, University of East Sarajevo, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Faculty of Law, University of Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Faculty of Law, University of Donja Gorica, Podgorica, Montenegro
- Pan-European University “Apeiron”, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Youth Scientific Institute, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Research Centre, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Other foreign and international Institutions:

- Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- Centre Européen Universitaire de Nancy, France
- Department of Legal Sciences, University of Salerno
- Department of Legal and Social Sciences, “Niccolo Cusano” University, Rome
- Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne, Switzerland
- European Law Institute, Vienna, Austria
- Faculty of Law, University of Florence
- Faculty of Law, University of Pécs, Hungary
- Institute for Federalism, Fribourg, Switzerland
- AIRE Centre, London, United Kingdom
- IRISS – Institute for Research on Innovation and Services for Development, Naples, Italy
- Europe Institute, Zurich, Switzerland
- CIDS – Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector, Norway
- Institute for Education, Documentation and Research of the Holocaust – Shem Olam (IHSO)
- Agency for Public Administration and Government of Norway
- UNCITRAL – United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
- UNIDROIT – International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
- UNICRI – United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- Faculty of Law, University of São Paulo



PROJECTS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE (2021–2025)

Continuing its long-standing tradition of scientific research, the Institute of Comparative Law participated in numerous studies and projects between 2021 and 2025.

The Institute conducts research on the basis of contracts for the implementation and financing of scientific research activities as a public research organisation (NIO), with financial support from the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia. The subject of research includes critical analyses of legislative solutions in other countries and supranational organisations, as well as innovations in international law, thereby contributing to the development of legal science, the creation of modern legislation, and the effective resolution of contemporary legal challenges relevant to the legal system of the Republic of Serbia, its economy, and its citizens.

Research activities include the preparation of academic monographs and thematic volumes across various fields of public and private law, the organisation of scholarly conferences featuring domestic and international legal experts, and the study of challenges faced by legal professionals from different regions of Europe and the world as a result of emerging trends in public and private law. Within the scope of these activities, researchers at the Institute have produced results in the form of policy papers and legal policy development documents, including draft bills, legal models, expert opinions, studies, and legal analyses.

The societal relevance of these research projects stems from their goals. First, the research advances domestic legal scholarship, which has yet to fully explore all legal aspects of new societal challenges, such as digital technologies and artificial intelligence, and to adequately explain the dynamic legal and political transformations underway in Europe — spanning international, public, and private law — which require adaptation of Serbia's domestic legal norms and practices. Second, by comparing Serbian law and practice with international standards and foreign examples of best-practice legal solutions, the research enables recommendations for improvements of the national legal framework. This contributes to the advancement of the rule of law and the protection of human rights — both prerequisites for Serbia's accession to the European Union — as well as to the strengthening of legal certainty for citizens and the creation of a more favourable business environment.

As a result, the research leads directly to initiatives for amending existing legislation, adopting new regulations, and redefining public policies, all while remaining aligned with Serbia's legal tradition, the specific features of its legal system, and the developmental needs of the society.

In addition to activities carried out within the framework of the Institute's annual umbrella research projects, several other more narrowly focused scientific



and professional projects of shorter duration were implemented between 2021 and 2025 under the auspices of the Institute and with financial support from various public bodies and organisations.

Comparative Study on Legal Frameworks Relevant to Integrity in Selected Western Balkan Countries

Financial Support: Government of the Kingdom of Norway – Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector (CIDS)

Implementation Period: February – September 2021

The objective of the project activities was to examine the alignment of national legal frameworks with international standards across six legal areas of relevance to integrity in four countries where CIDS actively supports national government institutions. These areas include: human resource management, conflict of interest, access to public information, public procurement, whistleblower protection, and the issue of unlawful superior orders. The study analysed the legal framework (constitutions, constitutional laws, laws, and by-laws) but did not assess practice, which is directly dependent not only on the quality of the legal framework but also on broader societal context and political culture in each country. The analysis covered legal frameworks applicable to civil servants, as well as regulations pertaining to the security sector — namely, the position of police officers and military personnel.

For the purposes of the study, a dedicated methodology was developed to assess the degree of alignment between national legal frameworks and international standards. Relevant international standards and indicators were first identified for each legal area. In formulating these standards and indicators, the following sources were considered: SIGMA Principles of Public Administration, the UN Convention Against Corrup-

tion, the Council of Europe's Code of Conduct, the RTI Ranking, and other relevant hard and soft law instruments, as well as best comparative practices. Based on a qualitative assessment grounded in in-depth analysis, the alignment of national legal frameworks with each standard was quantified. The study also includes a review of changes of both international standards and national legislation between 2013 and 2021.

Project contributors included: Dr Ana Knežević Bojović (Team Leader), Dr Vesna Ćorić, Dr Jelena Kostić, Dr Aleksandra Rabrenović, Dr Mirjana Glintić, Dr Mario Reljanović, Dr Miroslav Đorđević, Jovana Misailović, MA, and Dr Marina Matić Bošković from the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research.

Comparative Legal Analysis of Banks' Right to Charge Loan Processing Fees

Financial Support: Bar Association of Serbia

Implementation Period: November–December 2021

The subject of this project was a comparative legal analysis of regulatory frameworks and case law concerning the validity of contractual clauses that allow banks (credit institutions) to charge loan processing fees from borrowers. The study encompassed the following countries: Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Austria, France, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Montenegro. Additionally, it included an analysis of European Union legislation and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union on this issue. A special section focused on the legal regulation in the Republic of Serbia.

The legal analysis covered only those provisions and rules which were assessed, through comparative research, as relevant to the issue of loan processing fees. The analysis of each legal system begins with the definition of a credit agreement in the general legislation governing contractual obligations to determine whether those provisions also address the issue of charging credit fees. Legal provisions governing unfair contractual terms were also presented, as these are central to evaluating the (il)legality of clauses that allow banks to charge such fees — helping to determine whether these clauses, from the legal perspective, could be considered null and void or legally valid. The study further examined sector-specific legislation on consumer credit contracts, focusing on norms related to credit fees and their collection.

Given that national court practices are generally less accessible than statutory texts, analysis of court practice was conducted based on available data. Regarding Serbian law, the study presented the relevant legal provisions but excluded court decisions since the positions of domestic courts on the right of banks to charge credit fees are widely known to the public and have drawn considerable attention. The section on Serbian legislation also includes selected legal scholarship interpretations of contract law principles particularly pertinent to this issue. The result of the project was a study and public policy analysis entitled *Comparative Legal Analysis of Banks' Right to Charge Loan Processing Fees*.

The project team consisted of three researchers: Dr Katarina Jovičić (Team Leader), Dr Miloš Stanić, and Dr Jelena Kostić.

Developing a Model for Aligning the Republic of Serbia with the Case Law of the Court of Justice of the European Union as a Source of Law and Models for Monitoring Judgements/Opinions/Studies of the European Court of Human Rights and the Venice Commission

Financial Support: Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia

Implementation Period: April–June 2023

This research was conducted for the Ministry of European Integration with the aim of identifying the most appropriate institutional mechanism for harmonisation with the EU *acquis* and for monitoring the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the opinions of the Venice Commission. The analysis focused on three negotiation chapters — Chapter 7 (Intellectual Property), Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights), and Chapter 27 (Environment) — in order to assess whether the proposed mechanism could be applied across other chapters as well.

The document highlights that Serbia currently lacks a centralised mechanism for monitoring and harmonising its legal system with the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights. Consequently, it recommends establishing such a mechanism. Additionally, it includes the development of guidelines for training civil servants in searching relevant databases and identifying decisions requiring alignment with EU legal acts. These guidelines are crucial for a successful EU accession process and for preventing the fragmentation of international legal standards. The outcome of the project was a public policy study and analysis (M123).

The project involved six researchers from the Institute of Comparative Law: Dr Vesna Ćorić (Team Leader), Dr Vladimir Đurić, Dr Jelena Čeranić Perišić, Dr Ana Knežević Bojović, Aleksandra Višekruna, MA, and Vasilije Marković, MA.

Analysis of National Legislation Concerning the Legal Basis under Which Public Procurement Rules Contained in Intergovernmental Agreements Allowing Direct Award to Specific Entities Are Considered Harmonised with the Principles Stipulated in Article 11 of the Law on Public Procurement, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, and the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia

Financial Support: Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia

Implementation Period: May 2023

This project involved an in-depth analysis of the national legal framework regulating public procurement procedures based on intergovernmental agreements that allow for the direct award of contracts to specific entities. The project aimed to clarify the extent to which direct awards under intergovernmental agreements align with Serbia's constitutional and international obligations and to identify potential legal inconsistencies or areas for harmonisation with EU standards.

Researchers involved in this project were Dr Jelena Kostić (Team Leader) and Dr Vladimir Đurić.

Comparative Legal Analysis of Dual Citizenship Policy and Voting Rights Conditions**Financial Support:** Union of Serbs from Montenegro**Implementation Period:** June–August 2024

The objective of the project was to conduct a legislative and practical analysis concerning the exercise of dual citizenship and voting rights through the preparation of a study — a comparative legal analysis of dual citizenship policies and the conditions for exercising voting rights in the context of aligning Montenegro’s legal framework with European and democratic standards in this area.

Using normative and comparative legal methods, the study examined relevant legal frameworks governing dual citizenship and voting rights, drawing upon examples from numerous countries worldwide. To the extent required by the project task, state practices in this field were also analysed. From a normative perspective, the study addressed the key international conventions relevant to the topic. Subsequently, it focused on constitutional and statutory legal frameworks in selected countries considered relevant to this subject matter, with the aim of exploring diverse legal approaches.

The analysis presents the results of the comparative study on sensitive issues, such as dual citizenship and residence, and their interconnection with the right to vote. It highlights recent trends in the liberalisation of dual citizenship policies in European countries. At the same time, the analysis serves as a public policy instrument offering concrete recommendations for Montenegro to harmonise its legal framework with the identified trends.

The scope and depth of the analysis exceeded the initially stipulated requirements for the realisation of the project, for the reason of which the research findings may also prove valuable to lawmakers in the Republic of Serbia.

Researchers involved in this project were Dr Miloš Stanić, Dr Vladimir Mikić and Vasilije Marković, MA.

Strengthening Independence and Accountability of the Judiciary**Funding:** Council of Europe**Implementation Period:** February 2021–May 2022

The project was implemented based on a contract signed on 8 February 2021 with the Council of Europe, under the framework agreement BH 4661/2019/10, as part of the Council of Europe and European Union programme Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019–2022 (Phase II), which supports rule of law reforms in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The project was grounded in the action plans developed for the implementation of the National Judicial Reform Strategy for the period 2020–2025. The primary beneficiaries of the project were the High Judicial Council, the State Prosecutorial Council, the Judicial Academy, and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia.

To support project objectives, a roundtable titled Coordination Mechanisms between the Executive and the Judiciary was held in Belgrade on 14 June 2021. In July 2021, a final report was prepared with recommendations for establishing a confidential counselling system for judges and prosecutors on ethical issues. In December 2021, a brochure was published on international standards regarding respect for the work of judicial authorities by public officials. The brochure was co-authored by Dr Ana Knežević Bojović, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Comparative Law.

The document supports the implementation of the Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23 and provides an overview of standards aimed at ensuring full respect for judicial decisions and the functioning of courts and public prosecution offices by public officials and members of parliament. It also reviews the corresponding legal framework in the Republic of Serbia.

Researchers involved in the project were Dr Ana Knežević Bojović, Dr Vesna Ćorić, Dr Milica V. Matijević, Dr Mirjana Glintić.

Support for Implementation of the Judicial Reform in Serbia

Funding: Council of Europe

Implementation Period: January 2023–

The project Support for Implementation of the Judicial Reform in Serbia was launched with the signing of a contract with the Council of Europe on 3 November 2022 and was implemented throughout 2023 as Component III of the Council of Europe's three-year program (2022–2024). This programme aims to reform the legal system, strengthen the rule of law, and harmonise Serbian law with European standards, in accordance with the National Judicial Reform Strategy for the period 2020–2025.

The project's main objective was to contribute to the consolidation of the rule of law in Serbia by supporting judicial reform, with a focus on developing legislation and practice related to judicial independence and accountability, access to justice, training of judges and prosecutors, and the harmonisation of case law. It served as a platform for dialogue and support in further aligning Serbia's legislative and institutional framework with European standards, including the recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring and advisory bodies, the EU Chapter 23 acquis, and other EU standards.

As a multi-year project, it significantly influenced the legislative process. The expertise of the Institute's researchers contributed to modern legal solutions in the context of the Chapter 23 negotiations and Council of Europe standards. Key project outcomes included the publication of *Serbian Steps Toward European Judiciary*; the analysis of the regulatory framework concerning judicial employees and a draft of key policy recommendations for decision-makers; development of a methodology and the multi-year work plan of the Judicial Academy, along with recommendations for amendments to the Law on the Judicial Academy; mapping of by-laws under the jurisdiction of the High Judicial Council that require revision, and the establishment of a timeline for their drafting and adoption; support to the High Judicial Council in

drafting the rulebook on the evaluation of judges and court presidents; drafting of the Rules of Procedure of the High Judicial Council and the first draft of the Rulebook on the Evaluation of Judges in accordance with the new legal framework.

Institute researchers involved in the project were Dr Ana Knežević Bojović, Dr Vesna Ćorić, Dr Miloš Stanić, Dr Miroslav Đorđević.

PUBLISHING ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE

The publishing activity of the Institute enables the dissemination of the scientific results of its researchers. It is carried out through the publication of monographs, journals, and collections of papers — either thematic collections or proceedings from academic conferences.

Main publishing activities in the past

From its foundation, one of the Institute's primary goals was to acquaint the domestic legal public with foreign legal systems and to inform foreign legal experts about the key aspects of Yugoslav and later Serbian law. This activity was realised through the publication of various series of publications, which were once a regular part of the Institute's work and, as such, represent an important testimony to its significance and role within the Yugoslav legal system.



Synoptic Tables

In cooperation with the Federal Executive Council, the Institute began in 1973 to systematically follow and analyse legislative activity and legal developments in the SFR Yugoslavia, based on official gazettes of the republics and provinces. Thematic comparative overviews were published under the collective title Synoptic Tables of Republic and Provincial Laws. Each table addressed one area of law by comparing the legislative solutions of different republics and provinces. From the beginning of its publication until the series was discontinued in the 1980s, more than 200 synoptic tables were prepared, covering various branches of law: constitutional law, administrative law, law on self-management, national defence, labour relations, health and social protection, civil law, commercial law, family law, inheritance law, criminal law, and the judiciary.

*Collection of Studies on Foreign and Comparative Law
(Recueil des travaux relatifs au droit étranger et droit comparé, 1961–1969)*

This series featured shorter studies in foreign and comparative law. The Institute began its publication in 1961, and five volumes were released annually until 1969. A sixth volume was published in 1981, marking the Institute's 25th anniversary and the 70th birthday of Professor Borislav T. Blagojević. In total, about 40 studies by domestic authors and 25 by foreign contributors were published. The series ceased publication due to financial reasons.

Translations of Foreign Constitutional and Legal Texts (Series E)

A total of 59 issues were published in this series, covering areas such as constitutional, administrative, criminal, civil, family, inheritance, and private international law, as well as the law of international organisations and nuclear energy. The translated texts included the highest legal acts (e.g., constitutions and civil codes), which served as a model for legal regulation in other countries, as well as newly adopted regulations of foreign countries which, due to their originality and modernity, arouse justified interest among the domestic professional legal public. Nearly all issues featured prefaces by distinguished legal scholars.¹³

*Legal Systems of Various Countries / Overview of the Law
in Developing Countries (Series I)*

To familiarize the domestic legal community with foreign systems, the Institute began publishing in 1964 a series on the legal frameworks of other countries, focusing on developing nations with which Yugoslavia had ties. The first three books, on Ghana, Libya, and India, appeared outside the series. Due to strong interest, the project continued with a full series of 35 volumes.

Overview of Legislation in Foreign Countries (Series G)

With the aim of ensuring that domestic scholars and practitioners were familiar with foreign legal systems, the Institute of Comparative Law began, as early as 1958, to regularly monitor legal developments across different branches of law in more than 30 countries. The results were published in a dedicated bulletin issued quarterly. The bulletin was compiled using official gazettes of foreign countries, which the Institute's documentation service regularly received and carefully archived. These gazettes served as the primary source for information on legislative developments abroad.

The laws were categorised by legal field, and the titles — translated into Serbian — were published in the bulletin in the form of index cards. In this way, domestic legal professionals were given timely access to legislative developments in foreign countries. Starting in 1972, the content of the bulletin was expanded to include summaries of the most important foreign legal provisions, also presented in index card format. The Institute published a total of 96 issues of this bulletin.

¹³ M. Toroman, "40 godina rada Instituta za uporedno pravo (1956-1996)", *Strani pravni život*, 1-3/1996, 18.

Other Serial Publications

Throughout its history, the Institute of Comparative Law has published various other serial publications:

Catalogue of Foreign Legal Books in the Library of the Institute of Comparative Law (Series A) – This was a biannual bulletin that provided bibliographic data on all foreign legal books housed in the Institute's library, including newly acquired titles. The bulletin was published from 1956 to 1991, with a total of 54 issues.

Series F – Collection of Articles on Comparative Law – This collection consisted of translations of articles by foreign legal scholars and was used as a supplementary textbook at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. It was published in three volumes, each dedicated to a specific thematic area: Concept, Nature, and Significance of Comparative Law (*Volume 1*); Scope, Functions, and Benefits of Comparative Law (*Volume 2*); History, Methodology, and Teaching of Comparative Law (*Volume 3*).

Collection of Yugoslav Laws – Beginning in 1961, the Institute of Comparative Law launched a special series dedicated to publishing translations of Yugoslav constitutional and legislative texts into French and English. Between 1961 and 1980, a total of 20 volumes were published. Each volume included a preface written by leading Yugoslav legal experts in the specific area of law.

Other series published by the Institute – In addition to its primary publication series, the Institute issued several other series that included only a few volumes each: Series H – Translations of selected original works on the legal systems of specific countries; Foreign Trade Law Series – Publications focused on legal aspects of international trade; Aviation Law Series – Titles dedicated to legal issues in aviation law.

Yugoslav Law (1974–2005)

As part of its mission to familiarise the international legal community with Yugoslav law, the Institute of Comparative Law regularly informed foreign legal professionals about the most important legal acts adopted in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Selected legal texts were translated into English and French. These translations were initially published by the Association of Yugoslav Lawyers in the journal *New Yugoslav Law / Nouveau droit Yougoslave*, from 1950 to 1967. The journal ceased to exist due to financial difficulties. However, at the initiative of the Institute of Comparative Law, it was revived in 1974 under the new title *Yugoslav Law / Droit Yougoslave*, co-published with the Association. It was intended to be published three times a year in French and English, and in other languages as needed. The journal included scholarly articles written by legal experts, judicial decisions, overviews of legislative developments in Yugoslavia, a Yugoslav legal bibliography, and a chronicle of the country's legal life.



The founders hoped that the journal would help foreign scholars better understand Yugoslav law and thereby contribute to bridging differences and fostering mutual understanding. For that reason, it primarily published contributions focusing on the distinctive features of Yugoslav law. *Yugoslav Law* was published from 1974 until 2005, with more than 150 articles, covering a wide range of legal fields.

The contemporary publishing activity of the Institute

The Institute of Comparative Law has retained its publishing activity as one of the core aspects of its work to this day. Currently, the Institute's publishing operations are carried out through the regular publication of journals, monographs, and collections of scholarly papers.

Strani pravni život (Foreign Legal Life)

Strani pravni život is a scholarly journal in the field of legal sciences published by the Institute of Comparative Law since 1956. It is one of the oldest legal journals in Serbia. Initially conceived as a bibliographic and reference bulletin, its aim was to acquaint the domestic legal community with contemporary developments in global legal theory, legislation, and judicial practice. The journal featured reviews of the most relevant theoretical articles, information on foreign legislation and court rulings published in international legal periodicals, as well as bibliographic data on other important articles that were not individually reviewed.

Over the years, more than 7,000 article summaries have been published, along with a significant number of reviews of foreign legal texts and court rulings — spanning regular, administrative, labour, and constitutional courts. To this end, the journal analysed all major legal publications from around the world, in approximately fifteen languages, covering more than 250 legal journals.

Since issue no. 34 in 1962, *Strani pravni život* transitioned into an academic journal. From that point onwards, in addition to reference bibliographies, it began publishing articles on foreign and comparative law, translations of foreign legal texts, and occasionally original articles of significant contemporary relevance. Since then, over 1,200 original, review, and expert papers have been published, including translations of legal texts, international conventions, and draft laws and treaties.

Initially issued as Series D of the Institute of Comparative Law (the first 137 issues), since 1989 the journal has been published without the series designation, with issues numbered within each annual volume. Until 2014, three issues were published annually. Since 2015, the journal has been issued quarterly — three issues in both Serbian and English, and one issue published exclusively in English.

Today, the journal *Strani pravni život* publishes original scientific and expert articles related to international law and foreign legal systems, legislation, and practice.

Its contents include academic and professional articles, commentaries on court decisions, presentations from scholarly and professional conferences, and book reviews. Since 2011, when it was first awarded the M51 category, *Strani pravni život*

has ranked among the highest-tier journals in law and economics in the national journal classification issued annually by the competent ministry. In 2024, it received the M24 classification of a national journal of international significance by the Ministry of Science. The journal has been published in an open-access format since 2008 and is indexed in the Serbian Citation Index (SCIndeks), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), the European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS), and HeinOnline.

Editors-in-chief throughout its long history have included Prof. Dr Borislav T. Blagojević, Prof. Dr Nikola Srzentić, Prof. Dr Vladimir Jovanović, Prof. Dr Boris Krivokapić, Prof. Dr Oliver Antić, Dr Jovan Ćirić, Prof. Dr Vladimir Čolović, and Prof. Dr Nataša Mrvić Petrović. Since 2022, the editor-in-chief has been Dr Katarina Jovičić. When it comes to members of the editorial and advisory boards, these have included prominent legal scholars from Greece, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Croatia, Germany, France, South Korea, Japan, and Russia. Currently, the editorial board comprises distinguished academics and legal experts from Serbia and eight other European countries (Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Greece, Romania, Montenegro, and the United Kingdom).

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The Institute of Comparative Law is a co-publisher of several scholarly journals.

Tokovi osiguranja (Insurance Trends) (2016–present)

In April 2016, the Institute of Comparative Law signed a co-publishing agreement with the insurance company Dunav Osiguranje for the journal *Tokovi osiguranja* (Insurance Trends). The journal addresses all aspects of insurance — legal, economic, technological-organisational, IT, preventive engineering, and marketing. It is intended not only for employees of insurance companies in the Republic of Serbia but also for anyone interested in gaining deeper insight into the essence of insurance law and trends in this field, both domestically and internationally. Since Issue No. 1 for 2024, *Tokovi osiguranja* has been published by the Association of Serbian Insurers in collaboration with the Institute of Comparative Law. The editor-in-chief is Prof. Dr Nataša Petrović Tomić, a full professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, while the editorial and publishing board includes esteemed professors and legal scholars.

Crimen – Journal of Criminal Sciences (2016–2018)

From Issue No. 2 (2016) to Issue No. 1 (2018), the Institute of Comparative Law participated in the publication of the journal *Crimen* in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade, Dosije Studio publishing company, and the Criminology Section of the Serbian Association for Criminal Law Theory and Practice.



European Law Review (2023–Present)

Since 2023, the Institute of Comparative Law has been a co-publisher of the *European Law Review*, a journal originally launched in 1999 by the European Law Association based in Kragujevac. The *European Law Review* is dedicated to theoretical issues related to European Union law and the process of European integrations. At the time of its inception, it represented the first specialised journal in Southeastern Europe focused on the theoretical aspects of EU (Community) law. Its editorial board includes both domestic and international experts — distinguished professors of EU and international law from leading European universities. Contributions come from authors in Serbia and abroad who analyse current issues in the domestic laws of their respective countries in the context of harmonising national legislation with EU law.

Labour and Social Law (2023–Present)

At the end of 2023, the Institute of Comparative Law became a co-publisher of the journal *Labour and Social Law*, a scholarly publication focused on the theory and practice of labour and social security law. The journal is published by the Serbian Association for Labour Law and Social Insurance.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE

As one of the core infrastructural units of the Institute of Comparative Law, the Library and Information Centre serves as a vital support for the Institute's research, publishing, and educational activities. With its extensive and diverse holdings, the Centre provides researchers, legal professionals, and the broader aca-

demographic community with access to a wealth of legal and interdisciplinary resources, thereby reinforcing the Institute's mission to promote comparative legal scholarship and foster international academic cooperation.

Library of the Institute of Comparative Law

Since its foundation, the Institute of Comparative Law has included a scientific library. The library comprises a collection of over 25,000 titles, making it one of the most comprehensive legal libraries in Serbia. The library's holdings include carefully selected domestic and foreign legal literature in several dozen languages. The collection predominantly comprises legal works but also covers related disciplines such as sociology, political science, political economy, public finance, culture, education, and religion. In addition to monographs and edited volumes, the library also includes numerous lexicons, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and handbooks. The section dedicated to periodicals comprises academic and professional journals across all branches of law.

The library spans a wide array of legal fields: legal theory and philosophy, public and private international law, comparative law, property law, obligations, family law, inheritance law, commercial law, maritime law, aviation law, labour law, intellectual property law, law on civil procedure, constitutional and administrative law, social protection and insurance, among others. In 1962, the Institute transferred all its holdings in the field of criminal law (592 books and 15 journals) to the Institute of Criminological and Criminalistic Research, which explains the library's reduced availability of literature in this field today, although this segment continues to be actively updated. Over the decades, the collection has been continuously expanded through purchases, donations, and exchanges with institutions and faculties both domestically and internationally. Technological advancements and increased access to information through various databases have reduced the need for certain types of acquisitions. Since 2019, the library has been part of the COBISS system (Co-operative Online Bibliographic System and Services). A significant portion of the collection is searchable via the ISIS system in the library's reading room.

Since 2022, when the Institute became a member of CrossRef, particular attention has been paid to the assignment and registration of DOI identifiers for the Institute's publications, in line with best practices in academic publishing. The Institute assigns and registers DOIs and metadata for the journals *Strani pravni život* (*Foreign Legal Life*), *Review of European Law*, and *Labour and Social Law*, as well as for monographs and serial publications published by the Institute. As of 2025, the Institute's library has also begun assigning and registering DOI identifiers on a commercial basis for publications of other research institutions, following expressed interest.

Legacies

The library hosts two personal legacies: the Legacy of Professor Dr Pavle Nikolić and the Legacy of Dr Jovan Ćirić.



Legacy of Professor Dr Pavle Nikolić

This legacy, donated by Dr Oliver Nikolić, was inaugurated on 18 April 2022. On that occasion, the Institute also hosted a promotion of the book *Constitutio lex superior*, published by the Institute of Comparative Law and dedicated to the memory of Professor Nikolić.

The legacy comprises a selection of 240 publications — books, collected volumes, and journals — that include works authored by Professor Nikolić. An especially valuable part of the legacy consists of dozens of books in Serbian, including his first monograph, *The Federal Assembly in the Constitutional and Political System of Yugoslavia* (1969) and his doctoral dissertation, *Parliamentary Systems*. Additionally, the legacy contains over 50 publications in foreign languages featuring his scholarly contributions. Apart from this, it also comprises 397 titles that formed part of Professor Nikolić's personal library. Many of these books were gifts from his colleagues and associates from Serbia and abroad. The most valuable segment of the collection are certainly books that are considered seminal works in the field of Serbian constitutional law.

Beyond publications, the legacy also encompasses awards, medals, plaques, and certificates of appreciation received by Professor Nikolić throughout his career. These include, among others, the Royal Order of the Karađorđe's Star, awarded to him in 1997; the honorary professorship diploma from the Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario; and the *Doctor honoris causa* diploma conferred by the University of Rouen in 1986.

Legacy of Dr Jovan Ćirić

On 4 April 2023, the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade inaugurated the Legacy of Dr Jovan Ćirić, Justice of the Constitutional Court of Serbia and long-time



Director of the Institute. The legacy was donated by Dr Ćirić's family.

The collection comprises monographs and academic and professional articles authored by Dr Ćirić, as well as edited volumes and books from his personal library. It includes 90 publications, of which 35 are edited collections and monographs written by Dr Ćirić. Among the most notable edited volumes are *One Hundred Years Since the Beginning of the First World War, Religion, Politics, Law, and The Right to Remembrance*. The monographs featured in the legacy include *Prosecutors and Victims* and *Objective Responsibility in Criminal Law*. The remaining titles belonged to Dr Ćirić's private collection and represent books he received as gifts or used extensively in his scholarly work.

A notable part of the legacy consists of photographs documenting key moments in Dr Ćirić's professional life. Fourteen photographs form the centrepiece of the collection, capturing milestones, such as the awarding of the Sretenje Order, meetings with Metropolitan Amfilohije of Montenegro and members of the Karađorđević royal family, and the conferral of the Professor Dr Borislav T. Blagojević Award to Dr Ćirić by the Institute of Comparative Law in 2021 for his contributions to the Institute's development.





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