

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The labour standards are concerned as part of human rights and were reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but its only part of the overall picture. Labour rights or labour principles also represent an important factor in determining global economic relations. Labour is, in the most cases, the main component of the prices of products or services and their availability depends directly on the amount of labour. Labour rights and standards, as well as environmental standards, play important role in the competitiveness of both developing countries as well as those that can be assessed as highly developed countries. Therefore adequate protection of labor standards is important both in the area of human rights and economics, where ideas of human dignity are, in many cases, confronted with economic interests. The European Union, as an important actor in international relations, in economic terms, but also normative, by incorporating labor standards into free trade agreements and preferential trade arrangements, plays a key role in shaping the activities of third countries. Nevertheless the issue of labor standards in the European Union's foreign policy is relatively poorly analyzed, which is associated with a lack of comprehensive research on functions of international labor law. The proposed project aims to identify functions of labor standards in free trade agreements (FTAs) and preferential trade agreements (PTA) of the European Union. The main objective of this research project is to address the crucial elements of development and application of provisions for international labor standards provision in the FTAs/PTAs. These provisions by default reflect institutional and functional choices made by the Commission, resulting in deeper integration. Positive effects of labor standards contained in the agreements concluded by the EU, adopted by many scholars, perhaps cannot be confirmed by facts. The EU approach to labor standards is, from the point of view of research on the political system of the European Union, a representative case study for testing overall EU policy and relations between EU institutions and member states. It contains most of the key issues and questions concerning the meaning of political action in the EU in the normative, regulatory and economic environment. Hence, the basic premise is that labor standards in FTAs/PTAs meet the interests of the public and private actors, guided by the divergent preferences, which act in a strategic constellations at the stage of the negotiation and execution of the contract. The European Commission refers to the political values of a universal nature, such as human rights, justice, and solidarity, but most of these ideas are connected with the market and economic growth. Therefore labor standards comprised in the FTAs/PTAs, aim at achieving the objectives of the Commission in the political dimension. Preferences of European Commission, guided by the logic of deepening and widening of integration and institutional influence, contribute to the inclusion in the FTAs/PTAs these areas that are still shaped by the Member States. From the point of view of political practice, it translates into covert integration, when the main function of labor standards comprised in the FTAs/PTAs is to expand the powers of the Commission. Research carried out in the proposed project will cover the basic political processes taking place on the EU institutions - the Member States – private actors. It will also undercover a hierarchy of preferences of the participants of the political processes involved in the implementation of FTAs/PTAs in terms of the choices made, building the agenda and ways of achieving specific policy objectives. The proposed project should classified as basic research, as it is aimed at enhancing knowledge of reasons for regulatory and external policies of non-state actors, to clarify the importance and meaning of factors which have an impact on the studied processes. Because any phenomena in the sphere of politics are universal by nature, and therefore it is possible to derive general conclusions, to more fully understand the process of integration as such and relations between normative, trade and regulatory stance of regional bodies. Propositions about strengthening EU approach to labour standards through completed contracts with external actors, will allow to built an analytical model for research on existing phenomena, or these policies that may exist in the future.