

### **Description for the General Public in English**

The aim of the project is to present the services conference as one of the forms of conducting administrative proceedings. The starting point is to present an institution shaped in the Italian procedural law in the light of its administrative system and its evolutionary transformations. Additionally, project provides to introduce the Italian experience in the Portuguese administrative procedure. The project involves a comprehensive analysis of the services conference in the context of the competence of public administration authorities, the procedural guarantees enjoyed by parties to the proceedings and decisions that may be taken in the course of the services conference, as well as the legal possibility of their challenge, both in administrative and in judicial procedure. The study will also verify the hypothesis of progressive convergence of administrative law, not only in the plane of the "top-down" unification (globalization, Europeanization), but also through "grassroots" initiatives associated with the mutual exchange of the most effective solutions between different systems.

To understand the concept and importance of the services conference, it will be distinguished from the structure of cooperation of public administration authorities by presenting European solutions in this area (Finland, Greece, Spain) and to discuss co-operation of bodies in the Polish administrative proceedings. Like the other tasks carried out in the project, it will require a comparative analysis, including primarily the need to confront with the oral hearing (*mündliche Verhandlung*) - well-known to the members of the German legal culture (Austria, Germany) and hearing practiced in *common law* systems. One of the assumptions of the project is the possibility of recognition of the services conference as a kind of a resultant of proceedings in a form of hearing, and the mode of co-operation between the bodies.

As a result, the project should lead to present prospects and opportunities to adapt the institution of the services conference to the Polish administrative proceedings as a kind of a response to the phenomenon of excessive length of proceedings and disadvantages of formalized procedures, as well as to identify barriers and constraints in the implementation of this idea in the Polish law. With this approach, one of the hypotheses is the possibility of using the Portuguese experience with the transfer of concepts developed in another system into national law.

A reliable research plan built in order to determine the veracity of the hypotheses must, first of all, assume the adoption of a research method based on the analysis and criticism of the Italian and Portuguese proceduralistic achievements, the sources of law and doctrine *acquis* in other countries. Analysis and criticism will also be a research method in relation to case-law in administrative matters, including case-law of European courts and tribunals on the field of good administration. It is crucial in legal empirical studies to clarify the content of law itself. In this respect an important role should be assigned to the logical-linguistic method which allows the exegesis and interpretation of the content of legal norms and the removal of emerging doubts.

Especially, the comparative method will also be applied. The conclusions drawn from the conducted research will help to determine the veracity of the research hypotheses. The research plan therefore includes a hypothetical-deductive method involving the formulation of hypotheses in response to the posed research problems, determining the compatibility or incompatibility of hypotheses with the conclusions derived from the research and rejection of hypotheses inconsistent with the conclusions.

Interdisciplinary research will require an auxiliary use of economic analysis of law, that is the application of economic theories and econometric methods to investigate the law-making process, its structure, processes occurring in it and the impact of law and legal institutions on people, economy and state. An axiological method will be used in a natural way here. The study of law in axiological terms is a consequence of understanding the law as a set of standards of conduct in relations between people, built on the basis of some values to their implementation and defense. Positive law is not only a carrier of specific values, but also their guarantee. The investigator should refer to them in the interpretation of law.

To present the institution as a specific expression of concentration of evidence and coordination of public administration and the establishment of extensive comparative research is also pioneering. The research problem is the most current, and the achievement of the intended objective of the project will have a profound impact on the development of the discipline and the development of civilization. The principal investigator expresses his deep conviction that the results of research should be developed in the monograph and published in a book, and considers that the research results presented in a foreign language has a serious chance to publish abroad.