

The main research project objective is the study on human dignity (further: dignity) perceived as a legal category, as well as on philosophical fundamentals of said category. The subject of the research is the dignity interpreted as a distinctive feature of every human being (as stated in Universal Declaration on Human Rights or Charter of the United Nations) and not in its alternative meaning - as attributed to ones having distinctive social status. Research Project Objectives are: (1) Identification of the distinctive position of dignity, particularly in a polyarchic legal orders (see Dahl 1973). The author of the project describes this position as "the dignitarian dimension of law". (2) Explanation of this phenomenon with a personalist interpretation of dignity, (3) operationalization of dignity (understood as in point [2]) in legal analysis and interpretation.

The project assumes that the presence of dignity in many forms and places in the law is probably not merely a contingency, but rather it points to the integral relationship of law and dignity. This demands an explanation and sistematization, and that is why this project is to be pursued. Finding and defending a clear substancial notion of dignity can help in further, detailed research of law. This is the basic idea behind the project, as it seeks to explicate the notion of the dignity that will explain the phenomenon called "the dignitary dimension of law." The main research hypothesis is thus the following – that dignity understood in personalistic terms helps explain the dignitarian dimension of the law and can be further operationalized and applied to analytical studies of the law.

In the cotext od science the key outcome of the project pursuit will be a formulation of an original personalistic of dignity which will be purely philosophical. It will allow inspiring dialogue with other leading streams of political thought and will help to reveal the dignitary dimension of law. When it comes to the broader context of social development, the studies on dignity are very important due to the crisis of liberal democracy and human rights system we are facing. Both of these crises seem to be combined with another – the crisis of trust in the law. Re-establishing the bond between law and human dignity, or broader, the personal dimension of law, can be a conceptual basis to overcome such crises. Personalistic and dignitarian dimension law can be opposed to technical, that seems to dominate - the law is increasingly being regarded primarily as a means to achieve the desired social objectives. If the law would cease to be understood primarily as a technical instrument in the hands of the legislature (which has even criticized by M. Oakeshott), and began to be regarded as an expression of dignity (and thus the autonomy) of the human beings, certainly, the causes of the crisis of trust in the law would be impeded. Of course, the impact of the project won't go that deep at once, but it may inspire the steps in that desired direction. The advantage of dignity as the leading idea is the fact that it is not closely related to any particular political doctrine (both socialists, liberals and conservatives take dignity in some form) and therefore may be subject to an overlapping consensus in a pluralistic society.