

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The sphere of ‘the political’, i.e. the public space of conflict within the democratic community, has been shrinking in the past decades due to the processes of juridification and economisation of politics. Juridification means that political decisions are increasingly made by legal experts (e.g. judges of constitutional courts) and economisation means that political decisions are made by economic experts, often without any public consultations. This has led to the emergence of so-called ‘post-politics’, i.e. a situation in which politics are increasingly made by professional politicians and experts, rather than through an authentic engagement of citizens. The project aims at providing the theoretical framework for a re-politicisation of politics, i.e. the rebuilding of civic participation in political decision-making and the revitalisation of the democratic community as an authentic decision-making subject. The main thrust of the project will focus on the notion of a ‘participatory political decision’. It will be argued that only a political decision which is truly participatory (citizens authentically participate in taking the decision) but at the same time is a just decision, can be the cornerstone of a vibrant democratic community. The aim of the research is therefore to present a suggested way out of the crisis of the political, as described above, and therefore a way of overcoming the post-political situation. Although the project is situated especially within the sphere of political philosophy, it also has an interdisciplinary character. It encompasses elements of political philosophy, of the philosophy of law (the problems of institutions, constitutionalism and the concept of the democratic rule of law), social theory, as well as sociology (with regard to determining the causes of the crisis of political participation and new political movements). As regards methodology, the research project will be based on philosophical discourse analysis with elements of philosophical hermeneutics and the history of ideas. The method will be based on an analysis of conceptions put forward by contemporary political philosophers, philosophers of law and legal theorists with view to extracting from their thought the constitutive fundamental concepts (such as: politics, the political, community, participation, justice, practice, institution), as well as arguments and diagnoses regarding the crisis of the democratic community and political engagement.