

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Rapid advances in contemporary cognitive science and psychology has significantly contributed to increasing knowledge about emotions and their social role. There are research evidence that emotions have significant role in our cognitive process, formulation our judgments, shaping our attitudes and motivating us for action. Thus, we should give emotions their due in public sphere, and acknowledge their importance in lawmaking, law's application and law's enforcement. Drawing on interdisciplinary research concerning emotions helps in understanding the process of decision making and human behavior, what has influenced the development of social science, including economy and law, which was appreciated by the Noble Prize Committee which granted Noble Prize in behavioral economics to Richard H. Thaler this year. Yet the proposed project is not limited to reflecting to emotions in economic analysis of law. The general, much more ambitious, aim of the project is to address the fundamental issues concerning the understanding and the role of emotions in lawmaking and the impact of emotions on the concept of law, its recognition, application, enforcement, efficiency, legal argumentation and reasoning. The project covers broad research concerning the role of law in reflecting, channeling, expressing, and facilitating emotions. The project is also aimed at discussing the potential for misuse of emotions when instrumentally used in law or by law which may lead to populism, manipulation and many abuses. The relation between law and emotions is dynamic and goes in two directions. This means that, on one hand, law needs some positive social emotions for proper functioning. Yet on the other, legal institutions may have impact on emotions, promoting them and encouraging their emergence. This subject has not gained much attention in literature. The project aims at filling this gap by in-depth study of positive social emotions and their relation with legal institutions.