

Accountability is generally and simply defined as *the liability to account for and answer for one's conduct, performance of duties*. In political sciences, this term is therefore applied to describe certain political relationships: between members of legislature and party leaders (whips) or their constituents; government ministers accountable to a parliament. Meanwhile, when applied to constitutional law institutions some uses of the term in social sciences could lead to confusion with other categories, such as: political and legal responsibility, audit, and responsiveness in electoral process. Concurrently, the accountability may quickly become one of the most pivotal concepts in contemporary constitutionalism as an axis of democracy, based on active participation of citizens in exercising power, controlling the agenda of public decisions and activities, inclusiveness and equal impact of all citizens in political issues.

The main objective of this research project is to analyze and present a coherent model of public accountability within the framework of the doctrine of constitutional law. This would be achieved by arranging and scrutinizing selected mechanisms and processes in the constitutional practice of contemporary states, which would lead to those entrusted with exercising political power being held accountable. The concept of accountability of public authorities has been becoming more and more widespread for the past ten years. It has been recognised as a separate and important category in constitutional law and has been the subject of ever-growing attention for several years. However, it still suffers from a lack of a coherent theoretical framework and comparative studies. The main hypothesis, therefore, is that accountability can be regarded as one of the key categories in constitutional law and can serve as a useful tool for measuring and analysing how democratic criteria and conditions are being fulfilled. This research project concerns only constitutional forms of accountability (electoral accountability and accountability within and between legislative, executive and judicial bodies - and not the control and accountability of bureaucratic (administrative) bodies).

There is a lack of comparative studies in the area of constitutional law and practice. The observed crisis of the contemporary paradigm of liberal and democratic states can be interpreted as related to the crisis of accountability in many contexts. Diminishing voters' accountability and obscure procedures and standards for the exercise of constitutional power, when accountability is forgotten or neglected, lead to a crisis of confidence, growing populism and the search for substitutes for democratic, classic institutions. Political and sociological research in this field cannot replace the constitutional reflection on the accountability of political authorities and their relationship with the fundamental principles of democracy. Under this project, it is proposed to create a broad picture of the accountability in terms of constitutionalism in relation to international comparative studies of domestic experiences and practices. The project also contains some innovative elements in the study of the lack of accountability mechanisms and the risk of dangerous "over-narrative" transparency, acceptable by law and accepted in constitutional practice.

This project is both a comparative and a theoretical one as well as an attempt to obtain objective knowledge based on the analysis of a multitude of legal systems, certain regularities and patterns. The first objective of the project is to develop a theoretical framework for the analysis of the phenomenon of accountability in constitutional jurisprudence. The research project is also comparative in the search for models of constitutional norms to review various constitutional provisions and constitutional practices in the field of accountability in contemporary European countries. This requires examining legal regulations, jurisprudence and practices, and attitudes of political actors.