

The accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) to the European Communities (now the European Union) in 1973 initiated the process of the evolution of elementary principles that shape the normative framework of the state system. The UK's formula of membership in supranational structures was the result of a political compromise, and it was reflected in the national referendum. The framework of British constitutional law has been supplemented by new principles, namely the principle of direct effect and effectiveness of the EU law and the principle of relative primacy of EU law in the national legal order. These modifications were the consequence of Parliament's implementation of two legislative acts (*European Communities Act 1972* and *European Union Act 2011*) that laid the foundations and set maximum limits for the impact of new instruments on the British legal order. Both the principle of the direct effect and effectiveness of the EU law and the quasi-binding nature of the referendum do not conform to the basic principles of the British system or the principle of parliamentary sovereignty. Further processes aimed at opening the British system to external influences are seen in the development of the generation of human rights. Both the implementation of the provisions of the ECHR through the adoption of the *Human Rights Act* and the explicit significance of fundamental rights in EU legislation resulted in strengthening the position of the state judiciary. Judicial activism associated with the adaptation of new interpretative formulae in the law enforcement process has also led to irreversible changes in the mentality.

Hence, the assessment of the influence of integration processes on the shape of the British constitution requires scientific analysis. The paradigm of the constitutional model adopted in the UK, that is, constitution in the material sense, favours incorporation processes through its relatively open nature and vaguely defined legal power. It seems that the membership of the UK in the EU structures has led to irreversible systemic changes, redefining the shape of the existing constitutional institutions. The designed research is aimed at determining the elements that result in modification of the constitution in material terms and that are related to the participation of the UK in supranational structures and their delimitation from global processes that are objectively shaping the frameworks of constitutionalism. The aim of the current project is to assess the impact of EU legislation on the current shape of the British constitution and evaluate the degree of durability of the resulting modifications.

A sovereign decision in the form of a referendum has determined the need to break institutional ties between the UK and EU. Nevertheless, the politically binding resolution will not lead to an automatic reversal of the processes evolutionally shaping the British system for over four decades. In this context, it is necessary to examine the consequences of the withdrawal of the UK from EU structures. Above all, it is necessary to determine whether, apart from the formal revitalisation of certain constitutional axioms, systemic practice will also follow this path. In other words, did certain values and legal principles incorporated into the British system after 1973 not achieve autonomy, at least in the sphere of the practical functioning of the state institutions? The answer to this question is by no means strictly theoretical. Parliament also recognises the need to harmonise the EU 'legacy' with the new legal reality just before the finalisation of Brexit. Examples of this are the attempts to develop a framework regulation allowing the anchoring of a part of the EU legislation in the new political realities (*European Union (Withdrawal) Bill*).

Thus, the objective of the project is not only to analyse British constitutional practice, but also to determine model relations between the progressive openness of national constitutions and the increasing importance of transnational organisations with legislative and jurisdictional powers.