

The scientific goal of the project is the theoretical and legal development of the phenomenon of reception of law in the legal system of the Vatican City State, and thus providing new knowledge about the legal foundations of the functioning of this country - including first of all how to solve in the Vatican legislation the problem of the relationship between natural and positive law. The author is based on the assumption that the reception of law is the basic mechanism for determining legal norms in force in the Vatican City State, and at the same time it is carried out in an unusual way, departing from the manner of reception of law described in the literature.

In the literature on the subject, the reception of law considers the adoption by a community of law in which creation it did not participate or the adoption by a social group of the law established in /for this group. In the designed research, the author uses the first meaning of the term "reception of law". The phenomenon of the reception of law itself has repeatedly been the subject of interest in legal doctrine, especially in the area of the reception of Roman law in Western legal culture, or the reception of EU legislation in individual Member States. In canonism, however, the reception of universal law in particular is most often examined, or the influence of "secular" legislation on church norms. However, in Vatican there is a specific case of reception not studied in previous literature.

The Vatican legislator makes reception on many levels. He directly applies the term constituting (in art. 3 of the Law on Sources of Law) that in cases not explicitly regulated by Vatican law, norms issued by the Republic of Italy apply, but only to the extent that they are not contrary to "God's law, fundamental principles of canon law" and international agreements concluded between the Republic Italy and the Vatican City State. In the said Act it was decided that the basis of the Vatican legal system is the "canonical order", which should be considered when deciding on each case, and at the same time the authorities applying the right to resolve the case pending by them have been authorized without any explicit legal basis, and only under God's law and natural law.

Hence, in essence, the Vatican legislation on the one hand recognizes the positive norms in force in the Republic of Italy (and at the same time the EU legislation), on the other hand canonical norms, as well as norms that are hardly considered to have strictly legal nature - "God's law and natural law" . This creates a unique system that allows practical consideration of the classic issues of philosophy of law, doctrine of canon law and the teaching of the Catholic Church. At the same time, it is not possible to explain the phenomenon of legal reception in the Vatican City State without an in-depth study of these issues. In connection with the above, examining the phenomenon of reception occurring in Vatican law will allow, on the one hand, a thorough understanding of the principles of the functioning of this state.