

### **„Universal Basic Income (UBI) - contemporary variety of „*panem et circenses*”?”**

The crisis of liberal democracy made answers to questions about the obligations of the authorities towards society more and more desirable. It is impossible not to reflect on the reasons for the weakened interest in the liberal model of democracy in the context of unmet needs and social expectations. Contrary to the aforementioned system model, which focuses above-average attention on the implementation of the rule of law, illiberal democracies, most often characterized by a populist tinge, which are gaining attention today, try to implement the principles of social justice. As a result, they can be perceived as better reading social problems and more reasonably responding to them. In the light of the above, it is necessary to consider such elements of the political system, both formal and informal, which may decide about its petrification and modernization. It is obvious that the elements that may be considered the most important may, on the one hand, influence the maintenance of the current shape of the political system, and, on the other hand, be determinants of systemic transitions, while the direction of these transitions remains another subject of research. One of such elements is the universal basic income (UBI), which, being an element of the socio-economic system, is also an extremely important element of the political system. It can influence the shape of this system, as well as its duration and possible changes. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze in detail the constitutional possibilities of implementing the UBI concept, as well as the possible consequences of its introduction, and in particular its failure to implement it. Bearing in mind that UBI is an economic and social idea, and that the well-being of citizens is a key factor in their social activity and influences social satisfaction, this study aims to read the correlation between socio-economic changes and systemic changes. A systemic view of UBI will allow us to see not only its advantages, but also disadvantages, which may constitute a kind of constitutional challenge, as not all economic and sociological aspirations can be achieved with the use of classic legal tools. Moreover, the constitutional perspective will make it possible to understand the importance of implementing economic ideas aimed at improving the life situation of citizens in the context of the third wave of de-democratization. Thanks to this, the study in question will be a significant contribution to the discussion, not only scientific but also social, about the causes of the constitutional crisis or the crisis of democracy as such, as well as ways to counteract this crisis. Although this analysis will be primarily of a systemic nature, it will nevertheless be based on an ethical foundation, resulting from the importance of the UBI for individuals and the entire political community in terms of social, and not only systemic. The aim of this study will be to discover such premises, both constitutional, systemic and ethical, which would indicate the obligation to implement the concept of UBI. Moreover, the aim of the study is also to show the constitutional limitations resulting from the principles of the democratic regime, which do not allow for full translation of economic ideas into the provisions of statute law. This, in turn, will help to understand how the UBI can be used in illiberal democracies. The subject of this study will also be an indication of the possibility of implementing UBI in illiberal democracies and the consequences of such implementation, taking into account the democratic nature of the UBI phenomenon itself, which is raised in science. The analysis will focus not only on the contemporary view of the problem, but also on the comparison of the UBI concept with historical concepts of social satisfaction. To sum up, the necessity to bear public burdens should be distinguished from the necessity to bear political burdens. The method of introducing the UBI and its shape - complementarity with the systemic rules of democracy and basic constitutional values - have an impact on whether this concept and its functioning will lead to the petrification of a specific political system, or whether they will facilitate or even trigger its modernization. Therefore, there is no doubt that this study is extremely up-to-date, as it addresses pressing social problems resulting from the need to weigh particular interests, social interests and the interest of the state, as well as pressing systemic problems related to the extent of the need to satisfy the economic demands of citizens. Achieving social peace has both social and political value, therefore precise and reliable description of its determinants is necessary, and in the case of growing interest in populism, even obligatory.