

## **Parliamentary agenda-setting in times of crisis: a comparative analysis of legislative initiatives in modern democracies**

The planned research will be devoted to the initiation of legislation in the political systems of modern democracies that have been affected by various political, social and economic crises. The concept of research is based on the assumption that the process of initiating legislation is determined by a variety of factors, and moreover, it is not a homogeneous phenomenon, which could be reproduced in the same form in different countries. The project deals with the impact of various critical junctures on the initiation of legislation by the executive (governments, presidents), legislative (individual members of parliament, groups of parliamentarians, entire chambers of parliament) as well as by other entities having the power to submit legislative proposals. The effectiveness of legislative initiatives will also be examined.

The main goal of this research project is to answer the question of whether, and if so, to what extent, the various crises occurring in modern democratic countries are reflected in the behavior of political actors capable of shaping the parliamentary legislative agenda by submitting legislative initiatives. The initiators of this research project plan to analyze countries whose legal systems have been based on different legal cultures and which have adopted various systems of government (presidentialism, semi-presidentialism and parliamentarianism). Therefore, reference points for in-depth studies will be countries representative of different parliamentary traditions (Westminster, American, French, German, Spanish, North European and Central European). Hence, the basic methodological approach will be a comparative perspective, which is expected to enable to identify similarities and differences in this field as well as possible dependencies resulting from the occurrence of specific variables. In-depth research will refer, inter alia, to legislative initiatives concerning criminal law, extraordinary powers applied by the executive branch, as well as to civil and political liberties.

Although the enactment of legislation is commonly regarded as a central function of parliaments, the process of initiating legislation itself is not treated as a separate research problem, which requires particular attention. We assume that initiating laws and the results of such activities should be analyzed together. These topics are not overlooked, but scholars usually adopt different perspectives than the one proposed in this project. Hence, we want to focus on legislative initiatives in emergency or atypical situations and on their effectiveness in relation to specific initiators. We think that the research results in this area will differ from those obtained under normal conditions. The expected results of the research are to contribute to the deepening of knowledge about the factors conditioning legislative initiatives themselves and their effectiveness, as well as to reveal various dependencies and regularities occurring in this area due to emergence of critical junctures that are identified in modern democratic countries.