

The interwar law codification in Poland was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, work of law-making in Europe coming back to life after World War I. Despite that, many important and even key issues related to the creation of individual regulations by the Codification Commission of the Republic of Poland, which operated in 1919-1938, still remain unexplored. The major problem and obstacle to be tackled was the lack of source materials that could form the basis for studies in this area. It prevented carrying out studies and finding out details connected with the Codification Commission's work, which aimed to unify and codify law in a state reborn after 123 years of partitions.

This research project aims to establish whether the works of the Codification Commission of the Republic of Poland in 1919-1939 can be seen as the foundations of Polish modern basic civil law concepts. The study covers those branches of law that were not codified in interwar Poland, i.e., the general part of civil law, property law, inheritance law and family law (including matrimonial law). The source materials for the research project include unique, previously unknown sources of the history of law codification in interwar Poland, including the output of the Commission found during preliminary research. Thanks to it, the research opens up a hitherto non-existent perspective of a comparison between the law codification materials in interwar Poland and the decrees entering into force immediately after World War II, and the Civil Code 1964 and the Family and Guardianship Code 1964.

There are several reasons indicating the need to undertake research in the indicated area. First, to date, no source materials have been available for analysis in the areas that are the subject of the project. The unique archival materials, which will make it possible to reconstruct the products of the Commission's activity, are the foundation of contemporary Polish basic civil law concepts from the areas in which civil law was not codified (the general part of civil law, inheritance law, property law and family law, including matrimonial law). Second, the project will make it possible to establish the significance of the legislations of the partitioning states (Polish-French legislation in the central lands, Russian legislation in the eastern lands, German law in the western lands, Austrian and Hungarian law in the southern lands) or other legislations in force in Europe (among others, French or Swiss) for the creation of regulations by the Commission. Third, thanks to the project, it will be possible to establish the impact of the Commission's output in terms of the non-codified divisions of law on the shape of law in Poland immediately after World War II (decrees regarding the general part of civil law, property law, inheritance law and family law, including matrimonial law), the creation of the Civil Code 1964 and the Family and Guardianship Code 1964. The research will be historical-legal and formal-dogmatic in nature and the comparative method will also be applied.

The research project will therefore make it possible not only to reconstruct the product of the Commission's activity, discover the origins of the various regulations designed in the interwar period, but also to assess their sustainability through the lens of current laws. It will allow for an assessment of the significance of the products of the activity of the Codification Commission of the Republic of Poland for the present time. The implementation of the project will help to bridge a significant knowledge gap regarding the Commission's activity in the area indicated in this project. The issue has not yet received a global study, while the project itself will enable discussion of the topic not only on a national, but also on a broad international forum.