Has the law-making process gotten a bit out of hand? For decades, people have been talking about how it's speeding up: there are more and more rules, they're getting longer, and they change more often. This evolution has significant social consequences – citizens' lives are subject to greater legal control, they have to adapt to a larger number of regulations, and administrators and judges are faced with the need to apply increasingly complex laws. This raises the question: does this not undermine the quality of the law? This phenomenon has been called 'legislative inflation.'

However, despite its importance and extensive discussion, the definitions used in this area are rather disordered. Different researchers use different terms to describe the same problem or the same terms to describe different problems. It is not entirely clear what the proposed measures and remedies for the problem of inflation refer to.

Those measurements themselves are also not sufficiently in-depth – they usually consist of providing just a 'crude' number of acts or pages published in a given year. Meanwhile, the impact of law on social life varies – some legal acts are merely amendments to existing ones, others organise regulations, and only a few introduce socially significant changes. The adopted regulations concern, for example, civil law, administrative law or technical standards. With access only to the aggregate number of acts or regulations, we are unable to reliably assess the overall changes in the legal system and run the risk of drawing erroneous conclusions.

Therefore, the project has two objectives: theoretical and empirical. In the theoretical part, after analysing the literature on the subject, concepts with the greatest research potential in the context of empirical analysis will be selected. Their operationalisation and statistical indicators will be proposed to enable reliable measurement of legislative processes in numerical terms.

In the empirical part, a methodology for studying law-making will be proposed which will provide more in-depth information than hitherto on quantitative changes, taking into account, among other things, the types of provisions and branches of law. This study will then be conducted on a set of European Communities regulations since 1958. The EU example was chosen for its universality, and the method used will be replicable when studying other countries or organisations. It will be based on corpus analysis, machine learning classification models and natural language processing techniques. The research will be conducted in Python and R. The project is part of the broader trend of Empirical Jurisprudence, a field of research that incorporates empirical research methods into legal theory.

The results of the analysis will allow for the verification of the thesis on the existence of legislative inflation – but not in a general sense, in which it would affect the entire system at once, but in a complex sense, differentiated according to the type and function of the regulation. This will provide a reliable reference point for further legal and related analyses (sociological, political, economic). Within legal theory itself, a reliable description of this problem is a prerequisite for taking effective steps to limit it. Currently, due to the imperfections of research methods, this is significantly hampered. Thanks to the results of the project, EU, state and social institutions involved in legislative processes will have deeper and more structured knowledge on the subject.