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SOFIA UNIVERSITY
MARKING MOMENTUM
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MARKING MOMENTUM
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National Recovery and Resilience Plan



OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Origin, Reception and Application of Modern Legal Terminology

RESEARCH AREA: SOCIAL SCIENCES
RESEARCH FIELD: LAW

INTRODUCTION

The research project "Origin, Reception and Application of Contemporary Legal Terminology" is carried out by a team of the Faculty of Law of Sofia University and aims to provide a comprehensive demonstration of the roots of legal terminology used in continental legal culture, tracing its Roman law etymology, subsequent development and contemporary application in the Continental Law Family.

On the basis of the linguistic foundation of legal dogmatics outlined in this way, research efforts are directed towards the characteristics of the functioning of contemporary legal language as a language of thinking in legal formulas, but also a language with open meanings ("open texture"), implying the need for legal interpretation and underpinning law-making and law-enforcement processes.

The project's research aims to demonstrate the fundamental characteristics of legal language as a language of formulas, historically established meanings and a gradual move away from the "ordinary language" by encapsulating ancient usages in current legislation.

METHODOLOGY

The language of law is the living link between the historical evolution of legal phenomena and their understanding and development today. The genetic links between legal history and contemporary legal terminology are in turn a convenient basis for introducing law students to the disciplines they study. Legal language from a particularly important practical point of view is also the necessary key, both for the recapitulation of foreign legislation and for the correct application at home of international and European law. The project team starts from the idea that characteristics of legal language can be demonstrated through the consistent representation of original Roman legal ideas and their successive "imprints" in various modern European legal acts. The main part of the work on the Project consists in the analysis of the main Roman law maxims and linking them to current legislative provisions. The illumination of the direction of development of legal language as a unity of terminology and thought constructs is demonstrated through the presentation of the uses of Roman law maxims in legislation, scientific jurisprudence and judicial doctrine.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

On 20 November 2024, a scientific conference on the project was held in Sofia University with the participation of scholars from various Bulgarian and foreign universities.

Members of the International Board of the Project, Juan Manuel Blanch Nogués (Universidad CEU San Pablo, Madrid), Tomislav Karlović (University of Zagreb), and Marija Ignatović (University of Niš) presented research papers in the field of the Roman law and legal terminology.

Prof. Malina Novkirishka-Stoyanova analyzed "Regulae iuris, praecepta iuris and principles of law in Ancient Rome and their contemporary significance." Assoc. Prof. Simeon Groysman presented "The Language of Law as a Formula and Legal Dogmatics as a Way of Thinking," highlighting the role of Roman law studies in shaping legal dogmatics. A volume of the research papers from the scientific conference will be published in 2025. The project team is currently working on systematizing Roman legal maxims to facilitate their study and promote their significance across Bulgarian legal students and academia.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP
ASSOC. PROF. SIMEON GROYSMAN

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

- PROF. MALINA NOVKIRISHKA-STOYANOVA
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ПРОИЗХОД, РЕЦЕПЦИЯ И ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ НА СЪВРЕМЕННАТА ЮРИДИЧЕСКА ТЕРМИНОЛОГИЯ (ANIMA LEGIS)

Начало

Научният проект „Произход, рецепция и приложение на съвременната юридическа терминология“ се осъществява от екип на Юридическия факултет в рамките на проекта SUMMIT (Софийски университет – Маркер за иновации и технологичен трансфер) с финансиране по Национален план за възстановяване и устойчивост. Проектът, посветен на класическата и на съвременната юридическа терминология, наричан за кратко „Anima Legis“, се изпълнява в период от 2023 до 2025 г.

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