

EVOLUTION OF CONSTITUTIONALISM
IN THE SELECTED STATES
OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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INTRODUCTION

The presented here collection of studies and sketches has been inspired by the conference *Evolution of Constitutionalism in the Visegrad Group Member States*, which was held on the 11th and 12th May, 2010. It was the second conference organised as part of the cycle *Days of Law in Central and Eastern European Countries* by the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok. This year's conference could be organised thanks to financial support granted by the Visegrad Fund. The conference was honoured by the presence of academics from universities representing states of the Visegrad Group: Masaryk University (the Czech Republic), Trnava University (Slovakia), Corvinus University of Budapest and University of Pécs (Hungary) as well as – acting as hosts – academics from the Department of Constitutional Law of the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok (Poland). Special guests at the conference were representatives of the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus). The presence of guests from Belarus inspired the conference participants to present speeches devoted to constitutional problems not only of the Visegrad Group member states, but also some other Central and Eastern European countries.

Articles submitted to this collection have been written mostly by authors who presented their papers at the conference. The subject matter of particular studies prompted the editors of this volume to classify them into five parts. The first part contains studies devoted to general theoretical and political as well as comparative issues. The second part includes articles submitted by Polish authors and devoted to the area of Polish constitutional law. The third part is dedicated to works related to the protection of individual's rights. The fourth part embraces articles handed in by academics from the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and devoted to Belarusian law. The fifth part is composed of studies devoted to constitutional issues of other countries, mainly Russia.

The editors wish to express their sincere thanks to all individuals and institutions that made their contribution to the organization of the conference and publishing this book. They would like to thank especially the Dean of the Faculty of Law Professor Leonard Etel for organizational and financial support and Professor Marian Grzybowski, the Head of the Department of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok for academic guidance throughout

the whole undertaking. We would also like to thank representatives of particular universities whose kind help enabled us to establish cooperation and organize the conference: Professor Timea Drinóczi from University of Pécs, Professor Jan Filip from Masaryk University, Professor Patrik Príbelský from Trnava University, Professor Lilia Abramchik from University of Grodno and Anita Keresztes from Corvinus University of Budapest. We also direct grateful thanks to Dr. Agnieszka Piekutowska for participation in preparing the application to the Visegrad Fund. The editors also request Professor Krzysztof Skotnicki to accept their gratitude for agreeing to write an editorial review.

The editors hope that contacts established by institutions representing the states of the Visegrad Group and the Republic of Belarus will continue in the future and will lead to next academic initiatives.

Jarosław Matwiejuk & Krzysztof Prokop

July 10th 2010