

INTRODUCTION

The need for comparative studies of labour law seems indisputable, inasmuch it arises from the international character of many labour law norms, as well as from the interconnection between working and social relations which are often conditional and international. Thus, it appears that academic research into the field of labour law would be incomplete without its comparative facet. For these reasons, numerous networks of international cooperation between labour law scholars are being established on both formal and informal levels. The underlying idea is to find a common denominator for the discourse concerning the present condition of labour law, and pathways for its further development. The *Labour Law Education Society*, established in 2012 at the initiative of Prof. Charles F. X. Szymanski, is one of the networks attempting to accomplish this objective. Its early days were crowned with *Developments in Labour Law From a Comparative Perspective*, a conference held on 23rd–24th of May at the Allerhand Institute's branch in Cracow, Poland. The present volume, which is an outgrowth of that conference, presents certain current issues frequently discussed in the realm of labour law. Also, it contains chapters considering the most significant developments within the discipline.

As its paradigm is changing to the requirements of the post-industrial economy, in its nature work is becoming less subordinated. Therefore, it appears natural that the legal status of worker in labour law relations has become one of the main strands of research. The issue is approached from different vantage points in three chapters of this monograph. In the first one, Darja Senčur Peček analyses various aspects of self-employment, considering the degree of similarity and dissimilarity in the legal status of self-employeds and employees. The above leads us directly to the discussion concerning the notion of 'worker', commonly used in EU legislation, which becomes the focal point of Jaana Paanetoja's analysis. Paanetoja attempts to ascertain what characteristics are required for worker to be protected by EU legislation. The last chapter devoted to the changes in the status of worker as an object of labour law is that by Izabela Florczak and Barbara Muszyńska, who explore selected differences between labour law employment and the economically competitive civil law employment.

The character of contemporary labour law is increasingly shaped by modern technologies, which affects many dimensions of working relations. This influence is studied by Juhani Korja and Karolina M. Szymorek-Chachuła. Korja discusses the concepts of surveillance in the work place, employee privacy, and changes in the working environment resulting from technological development. Szymorek-Chachuła focuses on the use of modern technologies with regard to the possibility of concluding employment contracts.

The present monograph also reports on other subjects that are relevant to the current research in labour law and its developments. Senad Jasarević outlines Serbian anti-discriminatory regulations which, given the country's non-EU status, seem crucial in terms of the future adjustments to EU legislation. Tatiana Wrocławska, on the other hand, analyses employment stability among older employees. In yet another general contribution to this book Bojan Urdarevic considers the right to strike in Serbian legislation. The monograph ends with a chapter by Zbigniew Góral and Ewa Staszewska, who summarise the changes in Polish labour law legislation in the past ten years of Poland's EU membership, providing a valuable point of reference for comparative studies.

As the scope of developments in labour law seems extremely wide, an exhaustive compilation would be a formidable task. For this reason, the present book seeks to present only a selection of developing tendencies, all of which, however, form a reliable basis for further comparative studies both within and without the *Labour Law Education Society*.

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