Preface

Three countries – Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic are closely tied not only by their common roots, complicated history and common borders, but also by the common future which is inseparably connected with globalization and the Europeanisation (unionization) of the EU Member States’ policies in various spheres of social life. Both these processes are irreversible. Therefore, it seems fully justified to identify the similarities and differences in legal solutions which have an influence on the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services among these three States.

Nowadays, contrary to the time before the political and social transformation of the late eighties and early nineties of the 20th century, there are no obstacles to the spread of ideas across borders and crossing common borders. It may be stated that the essence of the contemporary state’s sovereignty is not to be found in borders themselves and competences of border guards but in limits of social protection, conditions for conducting business activity and providing services. All the problems connected with the application of new technologies, the threat to natural environment and finally a lack of obstacles in contacts among citizens of these countries create a big challenge to the authorities in the administrative sphere. The need of their cooperation in criminal matters is also obvious. Lack of control on the internal EU borders and differences in criminal sanctions are used not only by minor criminals but they also entail a risk of international organized crime.

This publication seeks to deal with all these spheres. Initially it refers to antecedents, but afterwards it discusses the differences and similarities in the understanding and interpretation of law, especially in the context of the transposition of EU directives. Moreover, it looks for similarities and indicates different approaches to social, economic and administrative issues. Finally, it contains some topics connected with cooperation in criminal matters.

This publication has two main aims. The first is to present current legal issues in various areas of free movement across borders and show different solutions to similar or even the same problems as well as differences in approaching selected legal issues.

The second aim is of a different nature. The book shows that the stereotype assuming that the legal solutions adopted in a given country are not interesting for foreign lawyers and the legal discourse across borders is difficult or even impossible, belongs to the past.

The authors associated with the four law faculties of the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), the Masaryk University in Brno (the Czech Republic), Trnava University
(Slovakia) and the Pan European University in Bratislava (Slovakia) prove that overcoming all these real, mental and legal barriers is possible.

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