

Jolanta Bieliauskaitė  
Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

## **Language of Jurisprudence: Tendencies of the Development of Scientific Legal Discourse In Lithuania**

Law is inseparable from language since it expresses itself through language. In other words, language is a tool for creation of law and development of legal science. Both, language and law can be considered as important elements of nation's cultural identity. However, recently their status as well as a national identity itself are challenged by globalization and related processes.

This presentation focuses on the current tendency observed in communities of legal scholars of some countries: although laws are issued in state language, the scientific discourse on the issues of law tends to proceed in English. Thus, we face the clash between preservation of cultural identity and unavoidable internationalisation of science, including jurisprudence.

The aim of this presentation is to explore sources and peculiarities of this tendency in the context of jurisprudence and to present the case of community of Lithuanian legal scientists. In order to achieve this aim, the presentation starts with the emphasis of the impact of law and language on cultural identity. Further, the status of the state language and legal requirements for a research language established in laws and other documents of the Republic of Lithuania are presented. Finally, practical issues of the usage of language in the legal scientific discourse (publication requirements, conditions of participation in scientific projects etc.) are explored. Here, in addition to legislation, the ruling of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania in case No. 18/06 subsequent to the 22 May 2006 petition of the President of the Republic of Lithuania requesting an investigation into whether paragraphs of documents, establishing the qualification requirements for scientists other researchers and teachers as well as for the habilitation procedure to the extent that they provide that not less than 2 research articles must be published in the publications indexed with the certain international databases, are not in conflict with the constitutional principle of the state under the rule of law and Article 14 of the Constitution, which establishes Lithuanian as the state language, is explored. Also, the ruling of the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania in case No. I-7-261/2017 is analysed.

The results of the research reveal that the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania establishes a priority of preservation of cultural identity over internationalization through the constitutionalization of the Lithuanian language. This tendency is determined by historical experience and the goals of the state in its early independent statehood.

The ordinary legislation looks for a balance between the preservation of the national language and the aim to participate in the international area. However, although the *Law on Higher Education and Research* still emphasizes the priority of Lithuanian studies which preserve, enhance and develop national identity, the analysis of other legal documents regulating research reveals the tendency of internationalization *inter alia* through inviting foreign experts to the doctoral thesis defense boards, the requirement to publish one's research results in internationally recognized publications by international publishers that, as a rule, are not national publishers or do not publish in the Lithuanian language, etc. So far, there are no significant cases in Lithuania that could substantiate the unlawfulness of these requirements. Thus, law puts itself in danger caused by the difference between language of laws (legislation) and language of legal science (jurisprudence).