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Title of PhD thesis: **The press publishers' rights in the European Union. Safeguards for access to information and media pluralism**

The assessment of the related rights of press publishers from art.15 of the Directive (EU) 2019/790 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on copyright and related rights in the digital single market (CDSM Directive) in the context of access to information and media pluralism, understood as the elements of freedom of expression and information, constitutes the main purpose of this dissertation.

The research provides an answer to the question of what solutions adopted at the stage of implementation and application of the publishers' rights can serve to achieve a balance between protection of publishers' interests and the need to ensure the free flow of information and to protect media pluralism. A cross-sectional study of the new law allows the determination whether granting publishers the exclusive rights as regards the use of press publications may contribute to the achievement of the objectives beyond the scope of copyright and related rights, such as protection of media pluralism or access to information. The choice of the research subject is justified by its topicality and importance from the perspective of Internet users' rights to access to information.

The study encompasses the analysis of the provisions from articles 2(4) and 15 of the CDSM Directive, their French implementation, being the first in the European Union and the Polish, the last implementation. The analysis, provided in this dissertation is enriched by some references to the implementations of art. 15 of the CDSM in Spain, Italy and Belgium, which allows the comprehensive assessment of the said rights in this specific context.

In the dissertation, the formal-dogmatic research method with the elements of the comparative method are used. The study conducted concerns to a large extent the EU law. The analysis, taking into account its specificity, is based on the study of primary and secondary law, including numerous directives on copyright and related rights, which allows the scope of harmonisation in this area to be outlined. The assessment of the publishers' rights in the specific context of access to information and media pluralism was carried out on the basis of criteria developed through the analysis of the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The approach to copyright and related rights is systemic and covers the broader context of the relationship with fundamental rights, media and social communication law as well as market perspectives on the functioning of the press sector and methods of dissemination of information.

The dissertation is the result of research conducted in the framework of the French Government Scholarship for stays in the French research centers. For this reason, and given the international scope of the research, it is written in English.

This dissertation constitutes a contribution to the development of research on copyright. It is important in the context of discussions about the relationship between extending exclusive rights and providing access to information, about achieving, by using the tools from the area of copyright and related rights, the goals going beyond this area, such as protection of media pluralism, or about the challenges for copyright from the perspective of the development of new technologies.

Key words: press publishers, access to information, media pluralism, press publication, news aggregators, online platforms