**Dragan Jovašević**, PhD, Full-time Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, jovas@prafak.ni.ac.rs

## Summary

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PURPOSE AND THE PENALTY SYSTEM IN SERBIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Penalties are the oldest and most common form of social reaction to different forms and types of criminality of both individuals and groups. They occur from the earliest times in Serbia, even from the Dušan's Code. All laws envisaged several types of penalties that were supposed to achieve a specific purpose (goal) - the suppression of criminality, but also its prevention. It occurs in two forms: a) special prevention influencing the perpetrator not to repeat the crime and b) general prevention - influencing the citizens not to commit crimes. This paper presents a lively and dynamic legislative activity in the field of criminal law on the territory of the Republic of Serbia in the twentieth century.

Namely, although Serbia has traveled a long way from the Kingdom of Serbia, through the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later the Kingdom of Yugoslavia) to several legal texts at the time of the existence of a socialist (before that of the Democratic Federative Republic, or the Federal People's Republic) of Yugoslavia, the development of the penalty system has been linked to turbulent social, political, economic, cultural changes, the perceptions of society, the legal tradition, the achievements of legal science, the needs of criminal policy and the effective suppression of crime. That was convenient to the spirit and needs of each and every time. From cruel, inhuman sentences - death sentences, imprisonment and severe imprisonment (with retribution, frustration, punishment for the purpose of punishment) that were familiar with the legislation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the system of penalties adapted to the human tendencies of the punishment that began to appear in two forms. This work speaks about the historical development of the purpose and penalty system in Serbia in the twentieth century.