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*Public interest in civil process*

**Summary**

Civil procedure, and civil proceedings in particular serve, *per se*, the realisation of private (individual) interests of the subjects in private law. This, however, does not mean that an interest, termed public or social, is non-existent in a process initiated, and subsequently in progress, before a civil court. Depending on the type of legal relation on the grounds of which a dispute, being a subject of cognizance and judicial decision, has arisen, this interest is introduced into the process with varying degrees of intensity. In the broadest context, it may be found in relationships of particular social importance, such as marital relations, family relations, or labour relations. It is in those cases where, due to the social importance of the disputed relationships, such interest is subject to the same protection as the interests of the parties to the proceeding. This interest may also constitute an exclusive subject of protection, owing to the prosecution instigated by a prosecutor or other entities entitled to prosecute, pursuant to the provisions of the code of civil procedure and other relevant acts. The prosecution which is so instigated, is not against any particular person but made with a view of protecting a social interest. In situations of a dispute between two parties, the protection of a public interest results from the protection that the court has granted to the parties in question. In a state of law, ensuring the compatibility of actual facts with the existing laws serves the public at large, realising, at the same time, the public interest. However, public interest in a legal process is not only a subject of protection. It is also about the maintenance of the composition of the jurors as well as the introduction of an extended competence and jurisdiction of the judicial decisions in those matters in which public interest, owing to the social significance of the legal relationships that are subject to the proceedings, manifests itself most clearly.

**Key words:** Public interest, civil process, civil court.