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**Institutes for the National Remembrance and their location in the socio-legal reality of  
the post-communist states in Central and Eastern Europe.**

## **Summary**

The main research subject is connected with specialized institutions from Central and Eastern Europe, which, as a group, could be named: institutes for the national remembrance. All of the investigated institutions were created by the individual CEE states. They are also under strong supervision of their creators and their financing depends from them too. The institutes' main tasks are formulated by the establishing bodies – the state lawmakers.

The 'founding fathers' are expecting from them to be the state representatives and the active actors of the processes of dealing with the past in CEE. Moreover, the fact of such institutional beings existence is not typical for all post-communist states. Described form of states' dealing with the past is common in a very specific group of former Soviet Republics and the satellite states. Such form is typical for those which have decided to be integrated with the political structures of the Western World as fast as it was only possible. This political shift, called CEE democratic transition, was determined by the need for political, economic and legal system general reform. According to the Western partners' expectations, such reforms were fulfilled by the implementation of the constitutional liberal democracy institutional framework. In effect, the main research question is: why such specialized bodies were created exactly in states which decided (at the transition beginning) to be integrated with the political structures of the so-called, Western World as fast as it was possible?

The dissertation is a comparative study on the cases of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

The research was conducted by following steps. Theoretical, which mainly was connected with the reconstruction of the collective memory concept and the identification of the fundamental differences between collective and individual memory. The next element was a recognition of the relationship between this phenomenon and the state influence

(by law) on its formation. In effect, by using the theoretical background, the empirical research part mainly focuses on the identification of the memories narrations in the acts constituting new political communities after the communism – liberal constitutions adopted in the '90s. The next research step was preserved for the analysis and the comparison of the statutes and the executive acts creating the institutes for the national remembrance

in the states from the main research field. The analyses were made among others according to such variables like sources of financing, the legal framework of the state supervision (and eventual elements of the political influence) or the institutes' internal structure and legal tasks. The last element was a comparison of the empirical material with such a phenomenon like the nation formation (including the nation-state), extraordinary legal elements of the democratic transitions (ex. transitional justice), and finally with the constitutional liberal democracy.

The main dissertations' conclusion is a statement, that such institutions existence is strictly connected with the model of the transition and the implementation of the constitutional liberal democracy framework. The state reorientation from the system based on the strong communitarian approach to the system oriented on the individual citizens forced post-communist states to the retirement from some areas of the societal life. However, from the different reasons, all of the investigated states did not decide to leave discussions about the past in a space of free public discourse. Their intention was to still have a reseat impact on the memory narrations (as it was declared in their constitutions). The institutes for the national remembrance are mainly the state agendas on dealing with the past field. The form of their organisation is a side effect of the liberal legal system. The legal framework in which the role of the state should be minimalized into the individual rights and guarantees. Also in such a system state's impact on the formation of the collective forms of societal co-existence should not appear.