

This doctoral dissertation is devoted to the issue of the openness of criminal proceedings. The considerations contained in the trial are to serve a better understanding of the meaning of openness (both internal and external) in the contemporary criminal trial. This procedure is subject to constant legislative changes. The best example of this is the numerous legal regulations regarding the broadly understood openness of proceedings in criminal cases, which were introduced to the Polish system in 2013-2020. The research objective of the study was a dogmatic analysis of the principle of openness, which was to define its place in the legal system within a broad normative context, including a reference to the relationship between the openness of criminal proceedings and the openness of civil proceedings, as well as in relation to acts of international law binding Poland. Undoubtedly, the openness of criminal proceedings is one of the elements of a fair trial. In connection with the above, the subject was also the assessment of the compliance of the existing solutions concerning the publicity with the provisions of international law and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. The doctoral dissertation also discusses the impact of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Tribunal on the binding legal solutions concerning the principle of openness. Moreover, in order to present the issues of openness as fully as possible, the doctoral dissertation describes the historical development of the criminal process. Due to the fact that in Polish criminal proceedings there are regulations which are a manifestation of the principle of openness (including in particular: the participation of parties and other people in the activities of the proceedings, access to files, the principles of public participation in a criminal trial) and regulations limiting it, they have been analysed by the author. In the doctoral dissertation special attention was paid to the interpretation and assessment of legal regulations in the field of open proceedings in criminal cases, which were introduced to the Polish system in 2020-2022 due to COVID-19. The dissertation ends with a summary, which presents the main theses and conclusions in the form of *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda* remarks as well as the postulate of increasing the justice system.