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Editorial **Regulatory Instruments** **and the Effectiveness of Public Policies**

We would like to invite you to continue reading about the area of law-making systems, which is a topic we started in the previous issue (HP 2021/41). The articles published in this volume offer various perspectives to analyses of legal instruments aimed at achieving goals in particular sectors of public policy. In line with the interdisciplinary approach, we assume that deliberations on the law-making and application of legal regulations should not be regarded as a domain reserved only for lawyers.

No one needs to be convinced that skilful application of both traditional and innovative regulatory tools may contribute to increasing the effectiveness of modern states and that negatively understood formalism should never constitute a barrier to efficient solving of important social problems. It is enough that decision-making processes are conditioned (hindered, blocked) by such factors as: the current political game, budgetary constraints or loudly manifested (and often contradictory) demands of various social groups.

The need to react fast and flexibly to technological (e.g. digitisation), economic (e.g. new forms of employment) or socio-cultural (e.g. new attitudes and expectations of citizens as recipients of public services) changes leads to a situation in which traditional forms of activities undertaken by legislative and executive authorities do not always guarantee efficient delivery of public services. On the other hand, in some situations it is the state institutions that play/should play the role of innovation advocates in promoting favourable attitudes and social behaviours.

In terms of finding ways to increase the effectiveness of regulations, public institutions still have a lot to do, and the very process

of implementing and improving new instruments should never be considered finished. In this context, the ability to learn from mistakes and to benefit from the experience of institutions facing similar problems in other countries seem the most pertinent skills. Let us hope that the development of interdisciplinary research in this area will be an impulse that will be reflected in practice. The next issue of "Horizons of Politics" will also be devoted to a similar topic.

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theme issue editor