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Summary of the PhD dissertation entitled "*Legal Institutions Intended to Aggregate Contracts in the Polish Public Procurement Law System*" prepared under the supervision of prof. nadzw. dr hab. Przemysław Szustakiewicz.

The aim of the PhD dissertation is to analyse legal institutions which serve the purpose of aggregating public procurement contracts for contracting entities in Poland, taking into account the fact that, firstly, fundamental changes have been introduced in this area as a result of the amendment of the Public Procurement Law Act of 29 January 2004, which came into force on 22 June 2016 and, secondly, that national legislation must be compliant with European Union law in this matter. The result of the study is the verification and confirmation of the research theses advanced in the PhD dissertation.

The dissertation contains two basic theses. The first thesis involves answering the question whether the Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement (new classical directive), introduced in the law of the European Union in 2014, pertaining in particular to aggregation of public procurement contracts, was correctly transposed in this respect to the Public Procurement Law Act of 29 January 2004 (Public Procurement Law), in accordance with the Act of 22 June 2016 amending the Public Procurement Law Act and some other acts. The second thesis involves answering the question whether the provisions introduced into the Public Procurement Law in the above-mentioned scope facilitate or hinder the access to the public procurement market for contractors belonging to the group of micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in relation to the regulations previously applicable in the Polish public procurement law system.

Three research methods were used in the PhD dissertation: formal-dogmatic, legal-comparative and historical-comparative.

As regards the scope of research using the formal-dogmatic method, this thesis contains a description and legal analysis of individual legal instruments used to aggregate contracts that exist in the Polish public procurement system. In particular, framework agreements, a dynamic purchasing system, a central contracting entity and joint procurement have been studied.

In the case of the legal-comparative method, the above-mentioned legal institutions applicable in the Public Procurement Law are compared with the same instruments of contract aggregation that currently exist under the new classical directive.

The scope of research carried out with the use of the historical-comparative method includes the comparison of contract aggregation techniques existing in Polish and EU public procurement law at the present time and before the entry into force of the amendments in 2014 (in relation to the new classical directive), as well as before the amendment of the Public Procurement Law introduced on 22 June 2016 (in relation to national regulations), with particular reference to the period beginning in 2004.

The dissertation contains an introduction, ending and it has been divided into six chapters. Chapter I discusses the basic reasons for the aggregation of public procurement contracts and indicates the goals that the contracting entities who decide to use the discussed legal instruments intend to achieve. This chapter also generally indicates the differences in the use of individual aggregation methods over the years in the European Union and in the use of aggregation methods in some EU Member States. In addition, one of the basic principles of public procurement law is discussed – the principle of maintaining fair competition in the context of its possible infringement related to incorrect application of aggregation methods. In addition to the above-mentioned issues, a short description of entities belonging to the SME group is presented, indicating the differences that occur in individual EU Member States. A few basic factors are also described which, especially in the context of aggregation of contracts, may facilitate or hinder the access to the public procurement market for SMEs.

Chapters II-V provide an overview of individual legal institutions intended to aggregate contracts. This issue is described with reference to the provisions applicable in national law prior to the entry into force of the amendment of the Public Procurement Law of 22 June 2016, and which existed in EU law pursuant to previous directives, in particular the repealed classical directive of 2004.

Chapter II describes the framework agreement, while Chapter III discusses the dynamic purchasing system. This part of the study is therefore devoted to the aggregation of contracts in the concerned sense. Chapter IV regards the institution of the central contracting entity. In turn, Chapter V contains a description of the possibilities of joint procurement and awarding of public contracts. Due to the fact that cross-border contracts are possible to be carried out both through the use of the institution of the central contracting entity and by using the possibility of joint procurement, hence these issues have been discussed in individual chapters, depending on the specific way of conducting a given procedure.

The final Chapter VI applies to legal institutions, the use of which should counteract excessive and thus incorrect aggregation of contracts. The three basic legal instruments serving the above-mentioned purposes have been discussed: division of the contract into parts, statutory limitation regarding the duration of contracts and the prohibition of joining public procurement.

The end of the dissertation contains the final analysis of the topic in the context of the advanced research postulates.