

Abstract

Thesis title: **Tendencies for Federalization in Italy**

The aim of this thesis is to examine the tendencies for federalization in Italy. The thesis is mainly based on the findings gained from the study of foreign literature and on the analysis of the relevant Italian case-law. In terms of methodology, the descriptive and analytical method are more prevalent, the comparative method was used marginally.

The thesis is divided into 4 main chapters. The first one contains definitions and theoretical analysis of individual concepts that are further used in the thesis. The second chapter summarizes the evolution of Italian regionalism, from the beginning of the unification of the Italian state to the constitutional reforms that have brought at the turn of the second and third millennium a significant turnaround for functioning and importance of Italian regions. The third chapter deals with the role of Italian regions and analyses the most important features of the Italian regionalism that have been set up in the Italian constitutional system on the ground of mentioned constitutional reforms. The new phase which started in the country has introduced a number of features typical for the federation. Key issues for the role of regions were particularly a considerable reinforcement of their statutory autonomy and legislative powers, strengthening of their position in the international field and opening up the possibility to negotiate about additional deepening of their autonomy. A big change for the regions were also the abolition of the governmental supervision, including the supervision of the Government commissioner, and realization of their constitutionally guaranteed financial and fiscal autonomy with the creation of fiscal federalism. The last chapter of this thesis examines in which elements the current setting of the Italian constitutional system is already approaching the constitutional system of a federation and tries to include the federalization of Italy in the context of the current decentralization tendencies in Europe.

The conclusion of the thesis expresses the conviction that the existence of regions in Italy will continue to stimulate strongly changes of institutional character in the country. Although the Italian Republic is not currently a federal state, it has already several characteristics of one, and the theme of the decentralization process remains very present in the country today.