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Abstract

The present manual entitled "European and Comparative Anti-Discrimination Law" is the result of a joint teaching at the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The material of the book does not only focus on the laws of the European legal area. It is further enriched with comparative law information derived mainly from the laws of the Anglo-American tradition and in particular from American law that has shaped the fundamental concepts of the field. The book does not exhaust all aspects of anti-discrimination law. In its two parts, it addresses two key issues: the fundamental concepts of the discipline, on the one hand, and the grounds of discrimination, on the other hand. The book is divided into six thematic sections. In the first thematic section, the concept of equality, differentiation between equality and discrimination as well as the individual versions of equality, are approached. The second thematic section presents the genesis of anti-discrimination law in the legal orders of the Anglo-American legal tradition, its infiltration into the law of international and supranational organisations, and its further transplantation into the laws of continental Europe. The third thematic section of the book

approaches the various forms of discrimination from the perspective of the different versions of equality. It examines direct discrimination as an expression of formal equality, indirect discrimination as an attempt to adapt the principle of equality to the needs of social reality, harassment as a form of discrimination and as an affront to human dignity, and positive action in its dual version as an exception to the principle of equal treatment and as an expression of substantive equality. The last three sections of the book deal with the grounds of discrimination. The fourth thematic section examines the ways of regulating these grounds and the criteria for their selection. The fifth thematic section analyses a number of grounds of discrimination, such as gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin and religion, disability, and age, while the sixth thematic section addresses intersectionality and multiple discrimination. In essence, this is the issue of the intertwining and confluence of grounds of discrimination that has been intensely debated in recent years, not only in the Anglo-American but also in the European legal orders, giving a multidimensional perspective to anti-discrimination law. ● ● ●

