

Concluding remarks

Frane Adam

The proceedings, based on the international conference, address the issues of crisis tendencies, with a particular emphasis on the moment of anomie, which is reflected in suboptimal governance, social polarization, and oscillation between inconsistent, sometimes extreme positions. Anomie generally refers to lawlessness, a lack of meaningful direction. However, even in cases of excessive regulation or regimentation, phenomena characteristic of a typical situation where old rules no longer apply and new ones are not yet in place are evident. Often, we deal with binomie, where multiple different rules apply simultaneously, and many find it difficult to navigate, while those who do, abuse it to their advantage.

Anomie is also associated with anamnesis, a short historical memory. One could mention chameleonism and mimicry in this context. However, these are not personal characteristics, but behaviors dictated by PR, media, advertising, and lifestyle. It is essentially a kind of adaptation to problems of meaningful orientation. As mentioned, many rules and legal procedures exist, but they are in many ways inconsistent. It has been shown how reforms in scientific policy lead to anomie, where old rules no longer apply and new ones are not yet established. Rules and laws change as well, with very little stability and predictability. In scientific policy, it has been suggested that certain criteria for scientific performance (excellence), such as the number of indexed publications or citations, will no longer be considered or decisive. Instead, reviewers and their qualitative assessments would play a greater role. We know that this is a very demanding process, with contradictory assessments from reviewers and evaluators. Decision-makers (in scientific policy) do not have all the solutions yet; they have simply announced that the old criteria will no longer be used, but it is still unclear how new criteria will be established.

Authors are looking for evidence of social crises. However, they are more pronounced in some countries (Germany) compared to others. We could speak of delayed, latent crises and potential dysfunctions.

The war in Ukraine continues to impact all EU countries. The „green transition“ alone is a very complex process, and the war will likely slow it down. Additionally, various dysfunctions in each country can escalate into serious social crises. For instance, the author discussing Sweden describes it as oscillating between extremes. It is not just oscillation; one extreme generates another, and so society disintegrates into individual segments that cannot establish communication with each other.

What should be underlined is the division between the rule of law and rule by law. Law has an instrumental role here. Certainly, distinguishing between the rule of law and rule by law is challenging. This issue is linked to over-regulation and a tendency towards non-transparency, where legitimacy is replaced by procedures (Luhmann). This marks the beginning of a bureaucratic saga that will be difficult to halt. From this perspective, EU members may also encounter blockades and acquire characteristics that deviate from democratic and legally ordered societies.