

El monográfico incluye, finalmente, un trabajo sobre la historia de la revista *Autonomies-Revista Catalana de Dret Públic*. Nos parecía que la celebración del aniversario debía propiciar también una mirada retrospectiva a la *Revista*, a las personas que la han impulsado y a todos aquéllos que con sus aportaciones le han dado vida.

El resultado final nos parece que es satisfactorio, y ello sólo es debido al importante esfuerzo que han hecho los autores y autoras que han participado en este número, a quienes queremos dejar constancia de nuestro agradecimiento.

Nuestro deseo es que pueda el lector disfrutar de estas páginas tanto como nosotros hemos disfrutado en la tarea de organizarlas.

Foreword

We are celebrating twenty-five years of the journal *Autonomies-Revista Catalana de Dret Públic* and we do so with a special issue dealing with the evolution and outlook of this discipline that we have in common: public law. We wish to do so, also, as a tribute to the journal's previous editorial teams who created it and nurtured it for so many years.

Our country certainly lacks a long-standing and uninterrupted tradition in the cultivation of public law. However, this circumstance clearly did not come about by chance or by design. Indeed, the minimum conditions provided by the rule of law, and the plural perspective offered by a democratic state are required in order to create solid and abundant schools of public law experts, so that they can participate in the intellectual training of civil servants, and so that within the latter there can be management teams of an efficient administration at the service of the general public. None of these circumstances existed in Catalonia, or in Spain either, until relatively recently.

And the vacuum was not only academic (let us remember, for example, that the figure of the constitutionalist in Spain did not actually emerge until the nineteen-eighties), but also, and as a consequence of the former, institutional. Hence, it would not be until the nineties that the different organs and institutions of the Government of Catalonia, whose main framework is public law (for example, the Advisory Council or the Legal Advisory Commission), would be comprised mainly of public law experts.

When this happened, once important research groups engaged in the disciplines of public law began to consolidate in the academic sphere in the Catalan universities, and corps of highly trained and specialized lawyers emerged in the civil service, as is described in one of the works of this special issue, it was only then that one could sense the dawn of a new situation which in a short space of time would allow for the practice of public law to compare with the longstanding tradition of the study and development of private law in our country.

In recognition of this fact, and as an instrument at the service of all those engaged in the different topics that make up this legal speciality, the journal's Editorial Council thought that it would be convenient to devote the special issue celebrating our twenty-five years precisely to the «Evolution and outlook of public law». It contains a historic approach to public law in Catalonia; one work on the current status of public law in Catalonia; and another on the development of the constitutionalist doctrine in Spain; moreover, from a comparative point of view there is an article on the treatment of public law in Germany, as one of the European States with the most consolidated tradition in this discipline; and one final study on the possible existence of a European public law.

The issue includes, finally, a work on the history of *Autonomies-Revista Catalana de Dret Públic*. We thought that this anniversary also called for a look-back on the history of the journal, the people who have been behind it and all those who have breathed life into it through their contributions.

We feel that the end result is satisfactory, thanks only to the important effort made by the authors that participated in this issue, whom we wish to acknowledge and thank.

We only trust that you will enjoy reading these pages as much as we did in the task of organising them.

Présentation

Nous célébrons les vingt-cinq ans de la revue *Autonomies – Revista Catalana de Dret Públic* avec un numéro spécial consacré à l'évolution et aux perspectives de cette discipline que nous partageons: le droit public. En outre, nous souhaitons commémorer cet anniversaire en hommage aux équipes de