

The objective of this Master's thesis is to analyze the rules of law governing contractual obligations in private international law. First, the relevant sources of law and their concrete application are examined through descriptive and analytical method. The thesis is then focusing on two specific phenomena that have significantly influenced the development of the field in the last few decades. The first one is a gradual process of unification taking place at the legislation level. The second one is called "new *lex mercatoria*" and represents a non-state source of rules governing contractual obligations with a cross-border element. Both of the phenomena are analyzed from both theoretical and practical point of view. The thesis is divided in five chapters and the analysis progresses from a general to a more specific level.

The first chapter focuses on the legal definitions indispensable for a more detailed analysis provided in the following chapters.

In order to better contextualize the rules governing contractual relationships in the international private law, the second chapter is dedicated to its historical evolution. Moreover, the chapter introduces and compares methods regulating contractual relationships in the international private law, while acknowledging the specific circumstances of their creation.

The third chapter contains an overview of legal sources governing nowadays the contractual relationships in the international private law. These legal sources create a complex, multi-dimensional system extending from national to European and international levels. Consequently, the chapter also contains a detailed analysis of the relationship between these different sources.

The fourth chapter focuses on the phenomenon of unification, which has an increasing influence on the development of the examined field. The two main actors of the unification process - The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and their respective activities are presented in detail.

In the last chapter, the phenomenon of new *lex mercatoria* is examined. The chapter first compares the theoretical perspectives regarding its independence and its binding character. Then, the chapter illustrates its practical use by concrete examples from the relevant jurisdictions.