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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Part I. Vulnerable groups: defining the ever-changing concept -- Definition of vulnerable groups -- Vulnerable groups in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights -- The role of constitutional justice institutions in the protection of vulnerable groups -- Part II. Legal protection of groups with inherent vulnerability -- Protection of children rights in North-Eastern Europe in family cases -- Protection of women's rights: in search of balance between work and family life -- Protection of elderly employees in the ageing society: experience of Lithuania and Estonia -- Improving the financial situation of the elderly? Towards better pension regulation in the Baltic States -- Protecting persons with disabilities: empowering by law -- Provision of services in long-term mental health and social care institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic: meeting and overcoming the challenges -- Part III. Circumstantial vulnerability -- Developing a child-friendly

juvenile justice system in Lithuania -- The dignity of punishment: vulnerable prisoners' rights in Lithuania -- Domestic violence against women in Lithuania and Poland – Seeking adequate protection of victims -- Implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive in the Baltic States: challenges and achievements -- Chasing the high: drug users as a vulnerable group -- Minorities in North-Eastern Europe -- Legal protection of national minorities in North-Eastern Europe: current issues. Religious minorities and their rights in Latvia -- Between injustice and legal change: the situation of LGBTQ+ people in Latvia and Lithuania.

Sommario/riassunto

This book analyses the current legal situation and protection of vulnerable groups in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland. In recent decades, national legislation in many European states has especially focused on vulnerable groups with the aim of securing their enhanced protection and social inclusion. This trend is also noticeable in North-Eastern Europe, where the legal frameworks are constantly being revised to address the needs of vulnerable parts of society, including women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and minorities, as well as prisoners and victims of crime. But despite these positive changes, many challenges persist. In this book, the authors provide a comprehensive, comparative analysis of legal regulations and practices intended to protect vulnerable groups in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland, and in the process, share insights into the current situation and trends in this often-overlooked region. Part I introduces readers to the topic by defining the concept of vulnerable groups and elaborating on its understanding in the European and national contexts. Part II analyses the legal protection of groups characterised by inherent and/or circumstantial vulnerability, while Part III addresses specific crime-related vulnerability issues in the target region. In closing, Part IV puts the spotlight on three specific vulnerable groups in the discussed countries.
