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Overview of the Hungarian-Polish Legal History Student Workshops

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The close cooperation between Faculty of Law and Administration of Jagiellonian University and the legal historians from the Faculty of Law and Political Science of University of Szeged goes back almost a decade. Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between these institutions, the faculties and students of the two universities have established close partnership in the fields of teaching and research, as well as talent management. The cooperation was launched with the professional support of Prof. Dr. Hab. Waław Uruszczak (the then head of the Department of Polish Legal History at JU) and Prof. Dr. Mária Homoki-Nagy (the head of the Department of Hungarian Legal History at University of Szeged). Every two years, Polish and Hungarian students interested in the history of law present their initial academic results in a joint workshop, which is hosted alternately by the two university cities of Kraków and Szeged.

The first workshop (“Polish-Hungarian Law Student Workshop”) took place in Kraków, Poland between 5 and 8 April 2016. The second meeting was organised in Szeged as part of the conference entitled “Polish-Hungarian Legal History Student Workshop II: Historical and Comparative Examination of Legal Professions in Jurisdiction and Administration”, which had a student session at the Chair House of Academic Committee of Szeged on 13 June 2018. The students presented mainly the work of prominent representatives of the legal professions and professors. The workshop included presentations by: Ilona Rębisz (Jagiellonian University), “Paweł Włodkowic – The Most Famous Polish Lawyer of the 15th Century”; Bence Krusóczki (University of Szeged),

“Dr. Salamon Beck – The Last Case-lawyer”; Ildikó Ámán (University of Szeged), “The Two Professors Kolosvary (Father and Son) on the Same Cathedra”; Edyta Kubiak (Jagiellonian University), “Mikołaj Zalasowski – Lecturer at the Kraków University in the 17th Century”; Mihály Botos (University of Szeged), “Marton Géza - «Professor of Liability»”; Viktória Kárnyáczki (University of Szeged), “The Life and Work of Ferenc Varga”; Balázs Timár (University of Szeged), “Sándor Plósz (1867–1911)”; Arkadiusz Piskorz (Jagiellonian University), “Juliusz Makarewicz – Author of Polish Penal Code (1932)”; Zita Varga (University of Szeged), “Károly Csemegi, One of the Greatest Hungarian Criminal Law Codifiers”; Bartosz Gałucha (Jagiellonian University), “Antoni Zygmunt Helcel (1808–1870). Lawyer, Politician, Law Historian”; Ildikó Galina (University of Szeged), “Károly Szladits, One of the Most Significant Professors of the Hungarian Private Law”.

The third meeting took place in Kraków from 20 to 21 September 2019 in the framework of an international conference “Unions of States in the Past. Theory and Practice”. The lectures covered widespread legal history topics: the exercise of judicial power, the role of the ABGB, the application of Lithuanian law in Poland, etc. The lecturers were Mihály Botos (University of Szeged), “Die objektive Haftung in Ungarn im 19. Jahrhundert”; Ildiko Galina (University of Szeged), “The Significance of Law of 1869 IV. in Hungarian Constitutional Development”; Kornél Horváth (University of Szeged), “Could the ABGB Have Been the Base of the Unification of the Hungarian Private Law?”; Bence Krusoczki (University of Szeged), “Unfair Competition in the Hungarian Judicial Practice”; Kristóf Szivós (University of Szeged), “The Effect of the Provisorische Zivilprozessordnung to the Hungarian Procedural Codification”; Zita Varga (University of Szeged), “Inheritance Litigation in the Light of ABGB in Csanád County between 1862–1865”; Ilona Rębisz (Jagiellonian University), “Crown Tribunal and Lithuanian Tribunal: Two High Courts in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth 1578/1581–1795”; Bartosz Gałucha (Jagiellonian University), “Subsidiary Application of the Lithuanian Law in Poland (1569–1795)”; Kinga Ciosk (Jagiellonian University), “Teodor Ostrowski’s *Prawo cywilne narodu polskiego (Civil Law of Polish Nation)*: A Handbook of Polish and Lithuanian Law from 1781”; Arkadiusz Piskorz (Jagiellonian University), “Incorporation in 16th Century and Its Results in the Area of Civil and Penal Law”.

The fourth Polish-Hungarian Legal History Workshop was held at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Szeged on 30 November 2022. Polish and Hungarian students were able to present their research results in the field of legal history for the fourth time, thus providing a mutual insight into the legal culture of the two countries. Dr. Hab. Maciej Miłkuła played an important role in the preparation and guidance of the Polish students, while the Hungarian students were assisted by Dr. Hab. Norbert Varga, associate professor. The Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Szeged organised the student conference in the framework of the OTKA project K 138618 “The Development of Private Law between the Two World Wars”. Accordingly, the theme of the workshop was the development of private law between the two world wars, with a special focus on the codification of private law, changes in commercial law and competition law.¹

¹ Project K 138618 was conducted with the support of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund, in the financing of the K 21 tender program (title of the project: “The development of private law in the interwar period”).

The first session was chaired by Dr. Hab. Maciej Mięka (Jagiellonian University). The conference was opened by Dariusz Piotrowski's lecture (Jagiellonian University), "From Five Legal Systems to One Commercial Code (1934): The Development of Polish Commercial Law in the Interwar Period on the Basis of Commercial Company Law", which gave an insight into the development of Polish commercial law between the two world wars, including the problem of legal particularism and the work of the codification committees established in 1919. Izabela Wasik's (Jagiellonian University) presentation "Das Gesetz vom 2. August 1926 über das auf häusliche Verhältnisse anwendbare Privatrecht – eine Analyse der Rechtsprechung des Obersten Gerichtshofs in der Zweiten Republik Polen" dealt with the Marriage Act of 1926 and the related Supreme Court practice, reflecting on the importance of the Court's law-development activities. This was followed by a lecture by Zsanett Forgó (University of Szeged) "The Restriction of Dower in the Judicial Practice of the Royal Regional Court of Kalocsa During the First World War", who presented how the restriction of widowhood rights was enforced in the World War I jurisprudence of the Royal Regional Court of Kalocsa. The following presentation "Marriage and Divorce in Interwar Poland" by Beata Dziego (Jagiellonian University), focused on Polish marriage law between the two world wars. She compared it with the Polish marriage law of the 21st century. Szandra Sümeği (University of Szeged) was the last lecturer of this session, who spoke about the two main legal institutions of the property regime of the Horthy era ("Military Land Grant and the «Vitéz» Land Property in Hungary Between the World Wars"). The session concluded with a lively discussion, with Polish speakers raising questions mainly on the issue of matrimonial property law, and Hungarian speakers were open to discuss about legal "territoriality" that was raised in several of the presentations.

The second session was chaired by Dr. Hab. Norbert Varga. The substantive law topics of the previous session were followed by a lecture on procedural law by Dr. Kristóf Szivós (University of Szeged), who analysed the dogmatic background of the change of action based on the Civil Procedure Code of 1911. The next speaker, Benedek Varga (University of Szeged), in his lecture entitled "Historical Category or Future Economic Crime: The Price Gouging", examined the dogmatic issues of a crime that appeared during the World War I, the price gouging abuse, illustrating the statutory elements of the offence on the basis of archival sources. Dr. Bence Krusóczki (University of Szeged) presented the case law of the Competition Act of 1923 under the title "Good Morals and Unfair Competition", also based on archival sources. This was followed by a lecture by Piotr Owsiak (Jagiellonian University), which gave an insight into the private law of micro states (Monaco, Andorra) between the two world wars, and the session was concluded by a presentation by Agnieszka Morawiec (Jagiellonian University), who examined the issue of religious freedom in the Second Polish Republic through the traditional Jewish educational system. The discussion that followed the presentations focused on the importance of processing archival documents, but also included several questions on the development of Hungarian criminal law during and after the First World War.

The students' workshop provided an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and postgraduate students researching legal history to gain a deeper knowledge of the history of the development of another state's legal system and to compare it with the legal traditions of their own country. The conference is a clear testimony of the cooperation

between the two universities over almost a decade and we hope that this relationship will be strong in the future. We would like to thank Prof. Dr. Mária Homoki-Nagy, Head of the Department of Hungarian Legal History, the Jagiellonian University and the University of Szeged for their support, Dr. Máté Pétervári, Adjunct Professor, and Judit Marvanek for their organizational work.

The student workshops provide an excellent opportunity for young researchers to learn about each other's research results and build contacts. In addition to professional contacts, they will also have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their research in the context of friendly discussions, the next forum which will be held in Kraków.