

CONFERENCES AND REPORTS

Prague Summer School on Immigration and Asylum Law for the third time! Summer School for PhD Candidates and senior Master students, September 13–16th 2021

How to educate and train good lawyers? This is a fundamental question which we all need to ask (and answer!) in academia. Currently, the examples of the best practices cover the inclusion of research methods - to provide students with cutting edge knowledge - and simulation to help students apply gained information. This mix represents the approach introduced by the Prague Summer School on Immigration and Asylum Law organised by the Charles University Faculty of Law in September 2021. The four-day-long summer school was organised within cooperation European University framework of Alliance 4EU+ and hosted young lawyers from Charles University, University of Milano, Warsaw University and Heidelberg University. The multicultural background of participants, different experiences and varying perspectives provided all participants with different angles on how to approach the complex and politically sensitive issue of the Common European Asylum System reform presented recently by the European Commission.

The summer school took place in venues of the Charles University Faculty of Law where lectures, workshops and simulations were organised. The opening lecture “Immigration and Asylum Law in International Context: Contemporary Challenges” by **prof. Harald Christian Scheu** focused on current problems of the international migration governance including often conflicting obligations emerging from the European Union level and the European Court of Human Rights’ case law. Heidelberg dean emeritus **prof. Peter-Christian Müller-Graff** presented his paper about the broader context of the CEAS within the Union Area of freedom, security and justice including the issue of Schengen System operability. The first day was concluded by the trip to the Czech Chamber of Deputies to meet real decision makers. Our distinguished lecturer from Warsaw Centre for Europe prof. **Jana Plaňavová-Latanowicz** chaired a workshop where participants could feel in migrants experience by preparing necessary documents and going through the immigration interview as mandated by the CEAS.

The closing activity of the summer school was a simulation of the Council of the European Union where participants in pairs represented assigned countries. They had to prepare their national position, present it, and try to convince their colleagues to compromise. The simulation aims to provide participants with first-hand experience of how difficult is to reach a consensus among the member states. Chaired by the **prof. Lenka Pítrová**, a former negotiator for the Czech Republic and PSSIAL head coordinator, the participants learned that CAES reform is a very complicated topic and real negotiators are facing various dilemmas including their national mandate limits. The simulation was preceded by a series of lectures including the presentation on the legislative procedure and rules of procedure in the Council. The current state of legislation was presented by **Dr. Nataša Chmelíčková** who is working on this agenda at the Czech Ministry of Interior. **Dr. Magdaléna Svobodová** joined the summer school thanks to telebridge and introduced participants to current CAES reform challenges including the Commissions’ current proposal on the Pact of Migration - focusing mainly on issues of relocation, return sponsorships and secondary movement within the proposed new Asylum and Migration Regulation.

The organisation committee believes that the third year of the PSSIAL is not the last one. More than ever, there is a growing need to exchange experiences and points of view between young scholars on difficult but important topics such as migration reform. Despite pandemic limited our options for communication the idea of European integration is based on cooperation and understanding which need to be preserved. We are happy that after long months of restrictions

the summer school could serve as such a platform for interaction and could finally take place in person. Those who could not join the summer school in Prague due to COVID-19 restrictions were provided with video streaming and participated virtually. The organisation committee thanks all the participants and their universities for well spend time and we are looking forward to future cooperation.

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