



SZEGED SESSION Report

16th – 18th September 2015





After a successful kick-off during the first session of the academic year 2015/16 in Prague, the second session took place in September in Szeged.

During the summer the research teams worked on their assigned topics and handed in several drafts to their counsels and mentors who guided them during the process. All research groups also had a consultation meeting with their mentors at different agencies of the United Nations or other international or national institutions.

In September it was therefore time to gather again all participants, this time in the beautiful city of Szeged in the South of Hungary for the second session of this academic year.

The Szeged session focused specifically on international asylum law, transnational organized crime and aspects of terrorism. The lectures came from different Hungarian universities and national institutions including the Corvinus University, the Pazmany University in Budapest, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade. During the Szeged session the students had the chance to interact with the lecturers in a very open atmosphere. The current refugee crisis also gave the students the opportunity to discuss current (and fast changing) political decisions with experts on that field.

Since the refugee crisis was overwhelmingly the topic of the day, in particular the situation on the Hungarian-Serbian border, the participants also agreed to help by donating goods and collecting money to assist NGOs operating in the area.

Another important point during the session was the work within the research groups. Enough time was reserved for the groups to prepare their presentation of the status quo of their research at the end of the Szeged session and to work closely on them. This was in particular important as it was the last chance to meet all together in person before the final deadline and presentation of their research outcomes in Vienna.

The Programme of the session

Wednesday, 16th of September 2015



The session started officially on Wednesday morning at the Law Faculty of the University tour, since for the most participants it was the first time in Szeged. Participants had the chance to use the splendid weather for a nice walk around the inner city as well along the Tisza river.

In the afternoon Molnar Tamas from the Corvinus University in Budapest gave a lecture about migration in the EU. After setting the scene with some statistics and the most popular migration routes, he particularly criticized the current lack of a global strategic approach in the present matters as well as a lack of political will and common European actions. He also presented an overview of the already existing legal tools to prevent smuggling and trafficking of human beings and concluded with the latest quota system; the EU Members States agreed on just a few days earlier to the Szeged session.



An official reception at a Hungarian fish restaurant where the students could taste traditional Hungarian food concluded the first day of the Szeged session ended.

Thursday, 17th of September 2015

Also the second day in Szeged started with time for the research groups to work on their papers and their presentations for Friday and to have in-person consultations with their counsels.

The first lecture of the day was given by Mr. Miklos Hollan from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The lecture focused on transnational organized crime with a special focus on the issues of corruption and human trafficking. Both issues



are dealt with in international criminal law. Mr. Hollan provided also a critical look on the UN conventions dealing with those issues and the difficulties to harmonize definitions in international criminal law. As in all lectures, the students had time to discuss the input and ask questions to the lecturer.

After the lunch break, Mr. Mate Szalai from the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade in Budapest presented issues of terrorism and ISIS in particular. In the beginning of the session he tried to find an answer to the question whether ISIS constitutes a modern state or a terrorist organisation. He also focused on the effective propaganda of ISIS. In his opinion, the military threat of the ISIS is just the tip of the iceberg. An effective response should therefore target the weakest point of ISIS which is the propaganda.

The official part of the second day concluded with several team building activities, conducted by Billy Batware. This gave the students the chance to work together outside their research teams and connect as a group.

The participants of the academy were lucky to experience the annual wine festival in front of the cathedral in Szeged. Combined with the great weather this was another great opportunity to get to know Hungarian food and wine.



Friday, 18th September 2015

Friday started with the group presentations. Each of the ten research teams presented the topics they are working on since April, their theoretical framework and provisional structure of their final paper. Every team received constructive feedback by the present counsels and their colleagues.

After the lunch break, Mrs. Reka Varga from the Pazmany University in Budapest and the legal adviser of the Hungarian Red Cross delivered a lecture about the legal responsibilities of state officials as well as an introduction to international criminal law. In her lecture she focused on the central problem

in international criminal law, which is the enforcement, and in particular the role of international and national (criminal) courts.

The session in Szeged concluded by a presentation by Mr. Michael Platzer, who is one of the initiators of the Academy and a former UN Official. He looked back to the 70th anniversary the United Nations celebrated this year. Mr. Platzer also gave the students some insight into the internal functioning of the UN as well as some critical points for strongly needed improvement of the present system. Altogether, it was an insightful conclusion to the Szeged session.

Conclusion

Once again, the participants showed strong interest in the programme and actively participated in the discussions and debates.

Many thanks go to all the speakers, supporters as well to the coordinators, in particular the organizing team in Szeged!

