

Summary

An international doctoral conference with the title „Saving families – saving values” was organized at the 26th of March 2021. The webinar was organized by the Central European Professors' Network coordinated by the Ferenc Mádl Institute of Comparative Law (Hungary, Budapest); by the University of Miskolc, Faculty of Law, Institution of Private Law, Department of Civil Law; by the Hungarian Scientific Academy Miskolc Regional Committee of the Private Law Scientific Working Committee; and by the Central-European Comparative Law Association.

Before the colourful programme was started, *Dr. habil Tímea Barzó* and *Dr. Edit Sápi* welcomed the participants of the webinar at the *Google Meet platform*. The presentations covers a wide range of family law, with special regard to the examination of the regulatory and dogmatic issues of foreign countries, with drawing the attention to the practical problems as well by presenting valuable and forward-looking presentations.

The first presentation was given by *Domagoj Dalbello*, a *PhD student from the Catholic University of Croatia*, who examined the issues and connections between values and fertility. In the presentation, he overviewed the aspects about defining the term “value” in a philosophical concept and the historical development of “value,” and then he spoke about some theories related to modernization. He examined the relationship between values and family, and he found that as social norms changed, the relationship between individuals and family also have changed. In the second half of the presentation, fertility rate indicators observed in different countries of the world, and he highlighted that fertility rates of the Western European states are alarmingly low. According to his point of view, the low fertility rates in Europe can be traced back to several sociological, psychological, and technological reasons, but they are also extremely closely linked to the changes can be observed in line with social values.

The second presentation was given by *Bence Ákos Gát*, a *PhD student at the National University of Public Service, Hungary* who examined how the traditional Hungarian family model can prevail in the framework set by the European Union. On the 22nd of December 2020, the Ninth Amendment to the Hungarian Fundamental Law (amendment to Article L) entered into force, which also affected family law by declaring that the mother is a woman, and the father is a man. This provision aims to emphasize the traditional family law values, such an approach which seems to run counter to the public policy objectives set by the EU. This is well illustrated, for example, by the fact that on the 11th of March 2021, the territory of the EU was declared an LGBTQ free zone. In the light of these aspirations, the presenter emphasized the importance of protecting the traditional concept of family at national level.

After that *Lucie Zatloukalová from the Masaryk University, Czech Republic* presented his thought-provoking lecture with the title "Marriage to everyone?" She showed and separated two approaches about marriage: on the one hand, the view that the institution of marriage can be used by any couple, regardless of the gender, and on the other hand the view which emphasizes that the institution of marriage can only be open to heterosexual couples. She presented that there are differences between European states in this regard, but temporarily, most of the legal systems prefer marriage as a relationship form of heterogenous couples. In contrast, legislation is evolving for example in the Netherlands and Ireland, where the law allows marriage to same-sex couples. The presenter also pointed out that some states are expected to open to a liberal model, while other countries are voting in the favour of strong legal protection for the traditional family model.

The next speaker was *Katja Drnovšek, a PhD student at the University of Maribor, Slovenia*, who examined the enforcement of parental responsibilities in the light of Slovenian state regulations. The presentation also gave a detailed overview of the development of Slovenian family law legislation and the recent "family law reform". Among this, she turned to the examination of parental responsibility and obligations, which were significantly transformed during the reform, so she also emphasized the comparative analysis of the old and amended rules in his presentation. In her presentation, which provided a highly detailed analysis of the Slovenian legislation, the author emphasized the priority of the best interests of children, and some examples of case law where this principle was highlighted.

This was followed by a presentation by *Mirna Dželetović, a PhD student at the University of Novi Sad, Serbia* on the issues related to child abduction and parental will as a legal basis. The Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is an extremely important document in this area, and it has currently 101 contracting states. The Convention also provides regulation for illegal exports and imports in line with each state and regulates the rights and obligations of the contracting states. She analysed the issue by presenting colourful statistics and drew the attention to the fact that, according to the statistics, the reference to the parental will (acceptance) as a legal basis for the removal is becoming more frequent, so its regulation needs to be reconsidered.

The next lecture was given by *Napsugár Ágnes Szél, from the Károli Gáspár Calvinist University, Hungary* who examined the situation of the so-called child-friendly justice in the light of the new Hungarian civil procedure law. The presenter noted as a common problem that children involved in civil law litigation are only passive participants in the proceedings and not real subjects of the procedure. The cross-border significance of this topic/issue is also illustrated by the fact that the Council of Europe has defined 2012 as the Year of Child-Centered Justice. She emphasized that

child-friendly justice can be considered as a unique domestic feature and the new Hungarian civil procedure law put greater emphasis on protecting the rights of children involved in the proceedings much more than in the past. She also emphasized that it is extremely important that the child shall be informed in an understandable way and form, in line with his or her intellectual level.

Following this, *Tussupova Tomiris*, an international PhD student at the National University of Public Service, Hungary held a presentation on the topic of international adoption. According to the presenter, the relevance of the topic is given by the fact that the institution of international adoption has recently emerged as an effective, nation-state opportunity to protect orphans. In this regard, she drew the attention to the statistics currently published in Russia and to the fact that international adoption is being criticized because this institution allows to uproot children from their usual cultural and linguistic environment. According to her point of view, trends in international adoption will show an increasing curve, and it can promote children's right to live in a full family and "social kinship" between different nation-states.

The next presentation was held by *Csenge Halász*, a PhD student at the University of Miskolc, Hungary, who presented the connections between social media and family protection. She pointed out that social media has an extremely strong impact on privacy, which includes the right to respect for private and family life. After the systematic and conceptual basis, the positive and negative effects of social media on family life were also outlined. At the end of the presentation, special areas such as influencers and the situation of children's photos were highlighted, which strongly affect the "online-placed" family relationships and call for an effective legislative response.

The presentations of the conference were closed by *Dominika Mróz*, from the Institute of Law Studies of Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland who gave a presentation on the legal protection of families with mentally ill members. The domestic basic legislation on the subject is the Polish Family Law Code and the Law on Custody, which entered into force in 1984. Polish and EU legislation both provide a legal framework that allows people with mental disabilities to live in a full family and to protect families with such members. In the presentation, the speaker outlined the structure of her doctoral dissertation, which also covered the study of sociology and legal issues related to mentally ill children, adults and elderly person.

As a summary, it can be stated that in the "Saving families – saving values" Webinar conference such presentations can be listened which examined an extremely wide range of the topic of family as a value, across countries and reflected on the challenges of the 21st century, which became part of our everyday live. The colourful lectures were quite different in their subject matter, but eventually they fit together perfectly, and a valuable, scientific discourse was realized.