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Studia Iuridica Lublinensia vol. 33, 4, 2024
DOI: 10.17951/sil.2024.33.4.9-11

Foreword

Przedmowa

On 17 June 2021, at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin), a Polish-Ukrainian conference was held, titled "Priorities in the New Green Deal Strategy of the European Union". The concept of the conference was put forward by the Department of Agricultural Law and Land Management of the Institute of Legal Sciences of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in collaboration with the Leaders of Change Foundation, responsible for the Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program in Poland. The scholarship holders who carried out their study projects in the academic year 2020/2021, given the pandemic restrictions applicable at that time, looked for the then-available forms of cooperation and exchange of experiences, as well as presentation of their research results. The proposal to hold a conference in the online formula was considered as meeting their expectations.

The selection of the conference subject-matter was aimed at identifying common interests linking the diverse fields of study and research areas of the Kirkland scholarship holders. The current issues related to environmental protection and sustainable development in the strategic approach of the European Union was then considered as most relevant. The New Green Deal strategy requires European societies to take up new challenges and actions necessary to stop and reverse the negative effects of climate change, meet social needs, ensure opportunities for a decent life, food security and a future for future generations. The New Green Deal strategy formulate certain priorities in this respect, which are of a universal and widespread nature. Thus, the conference agenda covered the following selected priorities: sustainable development; environmental protection and development; responsible manufacturing and management of production resources; social justice and civic participation; service-providing administration; impact of the Strategy on the Eastern Partnership countries.

The concept of a conference with the participation of representatives of local governmental and academic organisations of the domicile countries won recognition

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and acceptance from the Lane Kirkland Program coordinators, and the interest in and willingness to actively participate in the event largely exceeded the organisers' expectations. Numerous institutions and organisations, as well as representatives of public administration, local government and scientific centres of Ukraine and Poland, have signed up to co-organise and participate in the event. A total of 37 papers were presented, written by 54 people who represented 35 entities, including 28 higher education institutions (20 Ukrainian, 8 Polish), local government units (Kyiv, Lublin), units of the Polish Academy of Sciences and a representative of the Council of Young Scientists at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. A total of 358 people registered and participated. Particular interest from Ukrainian universities should be emphasized. The following institutions were represented: the Kherson State Agrarian and Economic University, the Kherson State University, the Vasyl Stus National University of Donetsk, the Educational and Scientific Institute "Institute of Geology" of the Taras Shevchenko National University, the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the National Agricultural University of Lviv, the Lviv State University of Internal Affairs, the Stepan Demianchuk International University of Economics and Humanities, the Ukrainian National Forestry University, the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University in Kharkiv, the Dnipro University of Technology, the State University of Infrastructure and Technology in Kyiv, the Dragomanov National Pedagogical University, the State Agricultural University, the Polessky State University, the Poltava University of Technology, the Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Forecasting and Testing of Machinery and Technologies for Agricultural Production, the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, the University of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, and the State University in Sumy.

The Polish side was represented by researchers from the Institute of Legal Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the University of Lodz, the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, the University of Life Sciences in Poznan, the University of Silesia, the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom, the University of Bialystok, the University of Warsaw.

Bringing together such a large auditorium posed a major technical and logistical challenge, and the conference agenda had to be formulated in such a way as to arrange the presentations according to their subject matter and to set a proper timeframe, also taking into account time zone differences. The final version was based on the following assumptions.

The agenda was completed in full. The discussions, which took place in several panels, allowed for a broad exchange of experiences, the identification of common opportunities for cooperation, the dissemination of knowledge and the formation of attitudes of social responsibility for the future condition of our world. As in-

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tended by the organisers, the outcome of the debate was to be published in early 2022. Further thematic scientific seminars, student exchanges and joint research programmes were also planned.

The date of 24 February 2022 dramatically verified our plans. Some of the conference participants now heroically fight on the frontlines of war, others organise humanitarian aid, support refugees and all experience the unprecedented destruction of their country, in every aspect of its functioning – including the environmental one. They point to such an enormous scale of environmental damage that the term "ecocide" can be used to describe it. However, despite this dire situation, they still act to prevent the collapse of the student academic training and research system.

As the President of the Scientific Committee of the Conference and the Editor-in-Chief of "Studia Iuridica Lublinensia", I am committed to keeping the promise to publish the conference proceedings. This volume contains the texts of papers we have managed to get from Ukrainian authors who had participated in our conference, complemented also with other researchers' writings that were sent to the "Studia Iuridica Lublinensia" Editorial Board. The issue *In Solidarity with Ukraine* presented herewith is a manifestation of solidarity of the Polish academic community with Ukrainian scholars.

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