JOURNEY TO FOUND “IUS GENTIUM” STUDENT’S ASSOCIATION AND ITS PARADIGM FOR LEGAL COMMUNICATION

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Abstract. Author describes the journey of founding „Ius Gentium” International Law Student Association as the natural consequence of forming the team for the participation in the prestigious international competition for law students: Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition.

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This report provides a comprehensive account of the founding of the “Ius Gentium” International Law Student Association by Sonia Owczarek, along with Dorota Piechowiak, Jacek Borycki, Hubert Anuszkiewicz, and Jan Czeszczewik, students from the University of Zielona Gora. As the chairperson, Sonia spearheaded our collective journey, supported by Dorota as the vice-chairperson. Professor I. Gawłowicz, an esteemed member of our university’s faculty, has been instrumental as a coach in all our competitions and a supporter in all our endeavours, providing invaluable guidance and support. Our journey began with our involvement in the Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition, where we discovered our shared passion for international public law and recognized the absence of a dedicated student association in this field at our university. Therefore, we understood after participating in MLMC, that it is significant to underline the legal communication, since we have seen various situations, where there was a lack of that notably in Manfred Lachs or in the process of funding “Ius Gentium”.

Motivated by the joyful time at Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition, we embarked on the mission to establish the “Ius Gentium” International Law Student Association (in Polish, Koło Naukowe “Ius Gentium”). Our primary objective was to fill the void in our university’s academic landscape and provide a platform for students interested in international law to convene, learn, and advance professionally. Our experience at the Ludovika Summer Course further solidified our resolve to pursue this endeavour. The Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, held from August 20th to August 31st, offered us invaluable insights into the domain of space law. Hosted by the European Centre for Space Law and Ludovika University of Public Service in Budapest, the course featured a comprehensive curriculum, comprising lectures, workshops, and group discussions led by esteemed experts. It also facilitated networking opportunities with peers and professionals from around the world, enriching our understanding of space law and its global ramifications. In addition to our participation
in the Ludovika Summer Course, we have actively engaged in various academic pursuits. We attended the 3rd International Summer School „Human Rights in Theory and Practice – The Dynamic Evolution of Fundamental and Human Rights in Europe,” broadening our understanding of human rights issues. Furthermore, we have participated in numerous conferences, fostering intellectual exchange and collaboration within the public international law community.

Beyond academic conferences, we have organized a series of webinars aimed at exploring contemporary issues in international law. Our inaugural webinar, “Taiwan - Space and Identity” provided a platform to delve into the intersection of law and identity politics. Subsequently, we hosted a second webinar featuring Anastasia Kret Tsychanok, a prominent human rights educator with 14 years of experience defending human rights worldwide it was, “Palestine – Space and Identity”. Both webinars futured on how legal communication is important nowadays in the time of danger and conflicts. Notably when we were organising and then participating in webinar led by Anastasia Kret we understood, how important is legal communication. For example, Ms. Tsychanok told us that once, she was a human right educator in Africa, on some governmental meeting and someone tried to poison her. After the webinar we were shocked how much lack of the legal communication there is in the third world countries.

Looking ahead, our commitment to advancing international law remains steadfast. This year, we are going to participate in the two prestigious competitions: The Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition and the IBA ICC Moot Court Competition. These competitions not only provide us with opportunities to hone our advocacy skills but also underscore our dedication to scholarly excellence and professional growth in the field of international law.

In conclusion, our journey, which began with our involvement in the Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition and culminated in the establishment of the “Ius Gentium” International Law Student Association, showcases our steadfast dedication to advancing the principles and practices of international law. Through our collective efforts, we aspire to foster a dynamic community of future international law scholars and practitioners. By actively engaging in various academic pursuits, organizing meaningful events, and participating in prestigious competitions, we aim to contribute to the enrichment of our university’s academic environment and make a positive impact on the broader legal landscape at a global level.

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