INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP «EUROPEAN SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION»

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Substantive qualifications are currently not sufficient to be a successful lawyer. Lawyers need communication, rhetorical skills, negotiation and mediation qualifications. They should be able to flexibly and effectively shape legal relations, modify existing ones and eliminate unfavorable ones - by seeking an agreement between the parties. Special communication skills are increasingly needed in out-of-court discourse, in settling legal disputes, in relieving tensions resulting from conflicts of interest in the free market, in the economy and in political discussions, in workplaces, in family relations, etc. Videoconferences, teleconferences and international negotiations form a new work environment. They create new, complex persuasive contexts with the problems of choosing the language of conversation, and the limited time of the Internet and telephone contact.

However, lawyers not only “serve” the judiciary by performing classic legal professions (judge, prosecutor, attorney-at-law, notary, bailiff, court referendary), but also provide legal advice in the economic sphere, work in consulting companies and perform other professions, in which legal education is very important, such as: tax advisor; mediator; broker; legislator; civil servant; translator. A lawyer with poor communication skills, not doing well in dealing with others, has little chance of lasting professional success, building his charisma, credibility and authority, even if he knows the law very well.

Although communication skills are related to our personality traits and are improved over the years of experience, the chances of success increase when the basis is specific knowledge. A very good lawyer knows the law, but they also know how to inform about it, persuade to the proposed solutions and negotiate for the benefit of the client. The results of a lawyer’s work depend not only on his/her knowledge of the law, but also on skills that cannot be nowadays learned in law studies: a sense of how the client will react to the problem and proposals for its solution, predicting what decision the judge will make and assessing how clients, judges, witnesses and opponents as well as their lawyers will respond to actions taken. Reasoning based on the assumptions of formal logic is undoubtedly necessary in the work of a lawyer. No less valuable and needed, however, is emotional intelligence and competences based on it, especially an empathic understanding of human nature.

The Internship Program on International Legal Communication, conducted jointly by the University of Warsaw and the National Aviation University in Kiev March-June 2021 (45h online), seeked to provide the answer to these needs. The research-based educational program was conducted by several academics from the above universities in form of workshops, lectures, discussions and timetables. It reflected a variety of scientific schools and topics concerning an interdisciplinary approach to legal communication, including law, linguistics, foreign languages and literature, education, sociology, psychology, political studies, business management, administrative services and economics. A further goal of the
joint program was to define the ways and directions of shaping an effective communication system in Ukraine, taking into account European experiences and national priorities. Ukrainian researchers concentrated on the intensification of the cooperation between the educational community of Ukraine and the Member States of the European Union, examining the best European practices in the development of modern communication. The program was developed by Joanna Osiejewicz (University of Warsaw), Iryna Sopilko and Maryna Dei (National Aviation University in Kiev). More than 30 academicians from various universities in Ukraine participated in the Internship. It was already the second international internship program in the field of legal communication conducted as part of cooperation between the University of Warsaw and National Aviation University in Kiev.