

## TRANSNATIONAL PERVASION OF LAW IN HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT; MILESTONES OF LAW IN CENTRAL EUROPE (ČASTÁ, 10 – 12 APRIL 2025)

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The 19th International Scientific Conference *Milestones of Law in the Central European Space* took place under the auspices of the Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava from 10 to 12 April 2025. Held in the traditional setting of the special-purpose facility of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in Častá–Papiernička, the conference offered not only a high-level academic programme but also a unique and collegial environment fostering scholarly exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue.

This long-standing academic event has established itself as a key platform for young legal scholars, doctoral candidates, and academic professionals across Central Europe. It continues to fulfil its primary mission of supporting early-career researchers in presenting their work, developing presentation and critical thinking skills, and engaging in discussions that transcend national borders and legal traditions. The emphasis on international participation and diverse methodological approaches makes this event particularly valuable within the academic legal community.

The 2025 edition was held under the theme "*The Rule of Law in the 21st Century: Challenges, Opportunities, and Global Perspectives*," a topic of growing urgency in the contemporary legal and political landscape. The conference programme reflected this theme through thirteen carefully curated thematic sessions, each exploring a distinct facet of the rule of law—from constitutional and administrative law to legal theory, history, and practical applications. With more than 150 papers presented in three working languages, the conference once again demonstrated its inclusive and international nature.

Due to the large number of submissions, the sessions were distributed across a two-day period, with presentations taking place in parallel panels. This year's programme was further enhanced by the introduction of thematic workshops, which provided participants with hands-on, practice-oriented experiences in areas critical for the future of the legal profession. The workshops addressed topics such as environmental law and climate justice, the development of legal skills and competencies, and practical pathways for internships in institutions of the European Union. Importantly, they were held in both

Slovak and English, ensuring accessibility to all participants and supporting the integration of international attendees. This format created opportunities not only for academic learning but also for practical networking, professional mentoring, and the strengthening of cross-border academic ties.

Among the diverse sessions, one of the most anticipated and intellectually rich was the session dedicated to legal history, Roman law, comparative law, and ecclesiastical and canon law. This session, held on the second day of the conference, bore the title *"Transnational Pervasion of Law in Historical Development"*. It offered a broad and interdisciplinary perspective on how legal norms have historically been shaped, adapted, or distorted across various legal systems and sociopolitical contexts. The session was opened with remarks from its academic patrons, prof. JUDr. Matúš Nemec, PhD., doc. Mgr. Mgr. Ondrej Podolec, PhD., and prof. doc. JUDr. Mgr. Vojtech Vladár, PhD., who emphasised the importance of historical understanding in contemporary legal reasoning.

The thirteen papers presented in this session were grouped into thematic blocks and followed by moderated discussions, which allowed for interactive exchange among speakers and attendees. Contributions came from scholars based in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, underscoring the session's cross-border and multilingual character. The first block of presentations addressed both private and public law dimensions from a historical perspective. Mgr. Július Palaj presented comparative research on marriage dissolution across Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia in the early twentieth century, shedding light on the evolution of family law in different legal traditions. Mgr. Frederika Vešelényiová examined the influence of Soviet ideology on Czechoslovak legal frameworks for the protection of minors during the 1950s and 1960s, contributing valuable insights into the interplay between politics and law.

In the area of public law, Mgr. Jakub Jankovič delivered an engaging presentation on cultural censorship during the interwar period in Slovakia, particularly the suppression of Hungarian-language books and music. His use of archival audio materials added a unique interactive element to the session. Mgr. Marie Sádlová from Charles University in Prague presented findings from her archival research on state arbitration in socialist Czechoslovakia, offering a deeper understanding of the legal regulation of the economy during that era.

Later contributions extended the temporal scope of the session to the nineteenth century and classical antiquity. Dr. Imre Képpesy, PhD., discussed the function of provisional court rules in press law during the 1860s, a period of significant legal reform in the Habsburg territories. Roman law was represented by the contributions of Mgr. et Mgr. Valéria Terézia Dančiaková, PhD., who examined the legal implications of Roman citizenship acquired by birth, and Bc. Veronika Blatnická, who focused on the dowry system in the Roman provinces of Egypt and Arabia.

Canon law was addressed by JUDr. ICLic. Mgr. Veronika Pétiová, PhD. et PhD., whose presentation analysed the development of the legal regulation of reserved offences, with a focus on cases involving sexual abuse and offences against minors. Her analysis included a critical reflection on the application of canon law in the Slovak context, particularly the challenges stemming from outdated interpretative materials. Mgr. Peter Pribelský, LL.M., provided a complementary contribution on the particular issues concerning property within the canon law of the Latin Church in Slovakia.

The conference concluded with a strong affirmation of its mission: to support the academic growth of young legal scholars, encourage critical discourse, and promote regional and international cooperation in legal research. Over the course of nearly two decades, *Milestones of Law in the Central European Space* has become a symbol of

academic excellence and a catalyst for innovation in legal scholarship. The successful integration of thematic workshops, a multilingual and multidisciplinary programme, and a focus on both traditional and emerging legal issues ensured that the 2025 edition continued this legacy with strength and vision.

As legal systems across Europe and beyond face new and evolving challenges, platforms such as this conference serve as a vital forum for reflection, learning, and collaborative problem-solving. The organisers, under the leadership of the Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava, once again delivered an event that enriched the academic and professional community and set the tone for further cooperation in years to come.

