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## THE EFFICIENCY OF PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS – CURRENT STATE AND PRO FUTURO CHALLENGES (BRATISLAVA, 12 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2022) / Patrícia Krásná, Stanislav Mihálik

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On September 12 and 13, 2022, the international scientific conference "*Bratislava Legal Forum 2022*" was held under the auspices of the Alumni Club of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law. The central theme of the plenary session was "*The rule of law and the academy in the storms of 100 years*". This year's conference was significant because it was also part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law.

The main goal of the international scientific conference was to create a space for professional and purposeful discussion between experts from application practice on the one hand and academics on the other. Because the exchange of valuable professional information in the context of such events brings effective solutions to numerous detected problems. In accordance with the stated goal, the international scientific conference was

divided into a plenary session and parallel discussions in thematically focused sections, in which speakers and discussants focused their interest on current issues important for individual areas of law.

Discussion in Section no. 13 – Criminal law, Criminology and Criminalistics, in Slovak, Czech and English, was conducted as part of a project supported by the Research and Development Support Agency APVV no. 19-0102 *"The efficiency of pre-trial proceedings – research, evaluation, criteria and influence of legislative changes."* The given section was aptly titled: *"The efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings – current state and challenges for the future."* The guarantors of the subject Section of criminal law, criminology and criminalistics were important internationally recognized experts in the field of criminal law, Dr. h. c. prof. JUDr. Lucia Kurilovská, PhD., rector of the Police Academy in Bratislava and prof. JUDr. Jozef Čentéš, PhD., head of the Department of Criminal Law, Criminology and Criminalistics of the Comenius University Bratislava, Faculty of Law, who is also the head researcher responsible for the mentioned project. The aforementioned supported the importance and justification of this international scientific conference.

In the mentioned section, in the context of discussions during both days, experts from academic circles, but also from practice, spoke. A total of 32 contributions were made in the relevant section, making the said section of the international scientific conference one of the largest in terms of the number of participants. Stimulating contributions of individual speakers from domestic and foreign institutions stirred up a rational discussion and thus supported the purposeful development of the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings of its examination, evaluation, criteria and also the impact of legislative changes. The presented information contributed to the development of scientific knowledge, but also to the application experience, the formulation of effective conclusions and practical recommendations for purposeful scientific activity, but also for specific actions in application practice for the future.

In the subject section spoke as the first member of the research team of the APVV 19-0102 project, prof. JUDr. Jozef Čentéš, PhD. (responsible project researcher) in co-authorship with doc. JUDr. Ján Šanta, PhD., LL.M., MBA, they addressed the topic *"Effectiveness of pre-trial proceedings in matters relating to the person of the coaccused,"* project researchers Dr. h. c. prof. JUDr. Lucia Kurilovská, PhD. and kpt. JUDr. Patrícia Krásná, PhD., LL.M. followed up on the mentioned pair with their contribution in co-authorship on the topic *"Legitimacy of the adversarial principle in preparatory proceedings."* In the next part of the conference presented their contribution doc. JUDr. Radovan Blažek, PhD. (topic of the contribution "The impact of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights on the effectiveness of pre-trial proceedings in the Slovak Republic") and JUDr. Stanislav Mihálik, PhD. and JUDr. Filip Vincent in co-authorship (topic of the contribution "Evaluation of the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings with regard to its selected institutes"). In the last part of the first day of the international scientific conference, from the members of the research team also spoke prof. JUDr. Tomáš Strémy, PhD., who addressed the topic as part of the starting points of the project *"Current challenges for the defence (not only) in pre-trial proceedings."*

During the second day of the conference, members of the research team of the project in question were also represented among the speakers, in the morning part of the section of criminal law, criminology and criminology, namely doc. RNDr. Tatiana Hajdúková, PhD. (in co-authorship with JUDr. Samuel Marr, LL.M.), who addressed the topic *"The Act on Victims of Crime in the context of the principle "Nemo turpitudinem suam allegans auditor" and its selected shortcomings from a de lege lata perspective"*, likewise doc. Ing. Stanislav Šišulák, PhD. (topic of the contribution *"Criminal consequences of*

*unlawful acts of extremism on the Internet*"), JUDr. Lukáš Turay, PhD. (topic of the contribution "*(Il)legality and (un)constitutionality of the penalty of forfeiture of property*") and JUDr. Juraj Drugda, PhD. (topic of the contribution "*Effectiveness of the use of specific means of evidence in the course of pre-trial proceedings*"). In the afternoon part of the section of the second day of the international scientific conference, the members of the research team of the APVV 19-0102 project also spoke – doc. JUDr. Marek Kordík, PhD., LL.M and Mgr. Ing. František Vojtuš, PhD. (in co-authorship) with a contribution on the topic "*Empirical analysis of the impact of selected factors on the shortened investigation*" and JUDr. Jakub Ľorko, PhD. (topic of the contribution "*Parallels of the efficiency of detention and imprisonment in Slovak prison conditions*").

The facts presented confirmed how important it is to focus on the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings through research, but also through the direct exchange of well-founded facts related to it. A peer-reviewed collection (in print and also in electronic form) will subsequently be published from the presenting relevant facts that were heard during the course of the Section of Criminal Law, Criminology and Criminalistics.

