

BRATISLAVA LAW REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY
THE FACULTY OF LAW,
COMENIUS UNIVERSITY
BRATISLAVA

ISSN (print): 2585-7088
ISSN (electronic): 2644-6359

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WITHOUT BORDERS (VEĽKÁ TRŇŇA, TOKAJ WINE REGION, 19 – 20 OCTOBER 2023) / Jakub Handrlica

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Suggested citation:

Handrlica, J. (2023). Administrative Law without Borders (Veľká Trňa, Tokaj Wine Region, 19 – 20 October 2023). *Bratislava Law Review*, 7(2), 259-262. <https://doi.org/10.46282/blr.2023.7.2.758>

Submitted: 09 November 2023

Published: 29 December 2023

An international conference, entitled “Administrative Law without Borders” was organised by the Faculty of Law, University of Košice in the municipality Veľká Trňa, which is situated in the very heart of the Slovak area of the Tokaj wine region. The conference was organised under the research project “Extraterritorial effects of foreign administrative decisions in the European Union”, which has been supported by the Scientific Agency VEGA. The Košice-based research team, under the leadership of Associate Professor Radomír Jakab, has been dealing with various problems arising from mutual recognition of foreign administrative decisions for several years, and the conference, as organised on 19th and 20th October 2023 in the Tokaj Wine Region, represents one of the major academic meetings organised under the umbrella of this academic endeavour.

Having said this, it must be noted that the topic of the conference is in line with the current trend in the science of administrative law in Europe. The topic has been quite intensively addressed by French, Spanish, and Italian scholars under the umbrella of the *Transnational Administrative Law Network/Réseau de droit administratif transnational* in the last decade. Therefore, the scientific effort of the Košice-based research team represents a valuable contribution of the Slovak Academy to this very recent discussion. At the same time, the reviewed event clearly demonstrates that the Slovak academy represents an integral part of European legal space.

The international conference was opened by the introductory speech by Professor Miroslav Štrkolec, Dean of the Faculty of Law in Košice, who warmly welcomed participants, who arrived from several universities in the Slovak Republic, as well as from the Czech Republic and Hungary. In the first panel of the conference, attention was paid

to selected theoretical problems arising from the concept of extraterritorial administrative act. In my speech, I addressed the question of recognition of those foreign administrative acts, which were issued on those territories, which are either military occupied or annexed in contradiction to international public law. Such foreign acts – for example, acts issued by Russian authorities on the territory of Ukraine – may circulate also in Central Europe, and consequently, they may represent a considerable challenge for the domestic decision making. The European dimension of the problem was also addressed in the next two presentations: Professor Fabián Adrián (University of Pécs) dealt with the principles that arise for the administrative proceedings from the EU law. In her speech, devoted to the competencies of professional corporations, Professor Soňa Košičiarová (University of Trnava) addressed the issues arising from the freedom of establishment of these corporations in the European Union. The overall message of all presentations, delivered in the first panel, was crystal clear: Taking into account the very deep interaction between the EU law and administrative law, one can only barely consider administrative law as being a pure domestic branch of law. In the subsequent discussion, the participants addressed the consequences of this shift of administrative law from a purely national branch of law to a concept which is European. These consequences do not only imply the need for different scientific methods to deal with the current challenges that arise, but also the need for change in the education process.

The second panel of the international conference was opened by Associate Professor Tibor Seman (University of Košice) by his speech, devoted to the historical context of recognition of both foreign judicial and administrative decisions. In his presentation, Associate Professor Seman outlined a very detailed and informative overview of the past legal frameworks, as applicable to the problem of recognition in the territory of the former Czechoslovakia and, subsequently, in the law of the Slovak Republic. Furthermore, Associate Professor Radomír Jakab (University of Košice) dealt with the current legal framework for recognition of foreign administrative decision under the procedural rules of the judicial review. In the next speech, Associate Professor Vladimíra Žofčinová and Associate Professor Peter Molitoris (University of Košice) addressed the problems, arising from mediation in administrative proceedings.

Furthermore, the third panel of the conference clearly demonstrated that the problem of recognition in administrative law represents a quite broad and topical issue in the current administrative law. In particular, this was demonstrated, for example, by the presentations, as delivered by Junior Lecturer Daniel Burda (Charles University), who dealt with selected topics of recognition of foreign university education, and by Assistant Professor Lukáš Jančát (University of Košice), who addressed the basic requirements for introducing a regime of mutual recognition of administrative decisions under the EU law. Further interesting presentations were given by Professor Zsuzsanna Árva (University of Debrecin), Associate Professor Jozef Tekeli, Assistant Professor Rastislav Král, Ph.D. candidates Diana Repiščáková, Miroslava Francová, Eva Berníková and Dominika Písarčíková (all from the University of Košice),

The fruitful character of the discussions, which followed each presentation made at the international conference, was undeniably supported by the charming atmosphere of the venue, which was chosen by the organising committee. The arrival of autumn has naturally triggered the interest of the participants in spending the evening time in the Tokaj-House, where academic discussions of the participants also continued also beyond the official scientific programme.

In year 2023, the Faculty of Law in Košice celebrates the 50th anniversary since its foundation in 1973. The conference "Administrative Law without Borders" has undeniably represented a perfect and dignified contribution to these celebrations. At the

same time, the event clearly demonstrated the level of scientific excellence of the research team, based at the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law in Košice.

On behalf of all the participants from the Charles University, I would like to thank the research team of Associate Professor Radomír Jakab for perfect organisation of the event and for the opportunity of a fruitful and interesting discussion in the Tokaj Wine Region. I am looking forward to read the written versions of all the presentations, which are to be published by the ŠafárikPress Publishing House in open access.

