

Introduction

The 4th Comparative Law Workshop (Örebro University, 16 October 2015)

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The bilateral academic cooperation between Italian and Hungarian comparative law scholars¹ that started in 2012 has now turned into a regular annual meeting. This delightful and stimulating event was first organized in Budapest, then in Florence, and the following year returned to Budapest.

In 2015, Örebro University of Sweden hosted the workshop for the first time with the clear aim to involve Swedish scholars in this collaboration. The workshop, as well as the topics discussed, has become a comparative experience. The event is no longer limited to scholars from Hungary and the University of Florence but the call for papers before the workshop is open to any interested comparatist.

The principal aim of this annual workshop is to help young scholars grow, by offering them the opportunity to present their research, get feedback and build personal networks. Most of the participants are doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers – some at the very beginning of their research, others at a more advanced stage. A selection of the best papers of the first and the third workshops have been published in this journal² and in the Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law,³ respectively. It is an honour to be able to offer the opportunity for the first international publication to some comparative law scholars.

This edition of the *Acta Juridica Hungarica* gathers four papers from three different academic institutions that were presented at the 4th workshop in Örebro, Sweden. Matteo Balloni and Gaia Allori, two of the youngest participants, are doctoral students at the University of Florence in Italy. Matteo Balloni's paper discusses the different approaches to healthcare protection in the United States and Europe. Gaia Allori presents the Sardinian customary code, a little known case of legal pluralism from Europe, transcribed by Antonio Pigliaru in the mid-20th century. Francesco Campodonico, doctoral student at the University of Genova, compares two structural models of recall procedure: the 'progressive model', adopted in the United States, and the 'plebiscitary model', used by some European countries. Emanuel D.G. Van Dongen, a Dutch scholar from Utrecht University with Henriëtte P. Verdam, analyses the historical development of the concept of contributory negligence in common and civil law.

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¹ On the first workshop see Kelemen, K. and Fekete, B., 'Introduction' (2013) 1 *Acta Juridica Hungarica* 1–3.

² Seven papers were published in *Acta Juridica Hungarica* (2013) 1.

³ Two papers were published in the 2015 edition: Palandri, L., *The Comparative Approach of the European Court of Human Rights – Shared Criticism with the United States Supreme Court* (pp. 71–92), Molnár, T., *The Concept of Autonomy of EU Law from the Comparative Perspective of International Law and the Legal Systems of the Member States* (pp. 433–60).

These four papers demonstrate the variety of topics brought together at this workshop. They all share the common thread of an historical approach, which was the theme advertised in the call for papers. This workshop aimed at reflecting on the relevance of the historical perspective in comparative research. Participants came from diverse fields including public law, private law and legal anthropology but all agreed that an historical perspective is still part of the essence of the comparative method.

The initiative continues and the next, fifth, Comparative Law Workshop will be held in Florence in September 2016.