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SUMMER SCHOOL IN SPAIN



MADRID, YEARS 2008, 2011 & 2014

The first Summer school was forged in 2003, during a Congress of the British Association of Law Teachers (Law Teachers Association) who held its annual congress in Maastricht in April (it is usually in the UK but it is sometimes celebrated in the continent).

A panel of that congress was dedicated to the distance learning universities that taught Law as a Degree or Bachelor. The Dutch Open attended with their Dean Professor Spoomans at the front, the German FERN UNI with Dr.Patrick Sensburg, Fakultätsreferentat that time (now a member of the German Parliament), a lady professor at the British Open University and myself, Pablo de Diego on behalf of the Deanship of Law of the UNED of Spain.

After the conclusion of this panel we met Professor Spoomans, Professor Sensburg and myself to explore some way of collaboration that would allow to improve the internationalization of the three faculties. The Law Teachers met again in York (UK) in the spring of 2004 and contacts continued for a possible collaboration.

After a new meeting in Edinburgh (2005)I went to Maastricht, where we decided (again with Prof Spoomans) that the best way to take advantage of the Erasmus framework could be the structure of the Intensive Program (between two and six weeks of academic activity).

It seemed to us the most appropriate for the profile of the distance student who cannot (usually) go to a conventional Erasmus stay (more than three consecutive months).

UNED finally applied in the 2006-2007 winter term to the Spanish Erasmus authorities and was provided with an aid for an Intensive Program for one year (extendable to two more). Previously, I had addressed the UNED Faculty of Education, who was part of a consortium of Universities that hold an Intensive Programme (IP) every year. A Greek professor who coordinated it, advised me on how to apply for this economic aid with an effective result.



So things were all arranged in 2007/2008 to start the voyage. Summer was chosen (Summer School) as the best time and Madrid as the first destination. In autumn 2007, FERN UNI welcomed us and the preparations began with the newly-appointed German Deanship as “Fakultätsreferent”, Professor Nils Szuka.

The spring 2008 meeting outlined the two weeks of work and the second half of July was chosen as the best time (once the academic obligations of the teachers were completed). The number of members-students-per country was 10 or 12 from the Bachelor / Bachelor level and the subjects taught were: Civil Law, Commercial and Economic Law, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law and European Union Law.

The original teaching team was the following: Civil Law was conducted by Professor Dr Karl August Prinze Von Sachsen (FERN UNI) with the help of Professor Dr Peter Lange (OU NL) and Prof Dr Francisco Jiménez Muñoz (UNED Spain). Law of the European Union (some general talks) was given by the local UNED lecturers (Dra. Teresa Marcos and Dra. Claribel de Castro). Constitutional Law was taught by Germany by Professor Szuka with Professor Spoomans by the Dutch Open. UNED contributed to with Prof. Dr. María Victoria García Atance. Commercial and economic law was taught by Prof. Donal Hellegers (Holland) Dr Bernard Kresse (FERN UNI Germany) and Pablo de Diego (UNED Spain). The part of Criminal Law was taught by Professors Evert

Stamhuis (Open NL) Dr José Núñez (UNED Spain) and a German lecturer, Kathrin Rentrop who later became part of the Fachhochschule of Bonn. In addition, eight hours of Legal English were taught by the Irish lawyer, resident in Spain, Martin Kearns.

The chosen dynamic was to elaborate a text in English with some theme for each country and then each teacher to teach something about their own local Law. A seminar of sharing, with analysis of a practical case, was the last stage and the one that made the teaching more interactive.

A Madrid University dormitory, Colegio Mayor San Agustín, very close to the UNED Law Faculty, welcomed most of the students from the three countries (Spanish residents in Madrid did not use the accommodation provided). Its proximity to the metro and the university area of Moncloa made it very attractive for foreigners. Since then, whenever Summer School has been organized in Madrid, it has been the accommodation for non-residents.

A guided tour of the Madrid Center was scheduled, which is witnessed by the accompanying photograph. The Dutch Embassy in Spain was also visited, where it was informed about the activities of the same that was very interesting. Finally, the Monastery of El Escorial (54 km from Madrid) was visited to complete the tourist



and non-academic part of this session of the Summer School. As an additional point, it should be noted that MP Herr Jens Spanh, of the German Bundestag (currently a very relevant person in German political activities) was one of the members of the students of the Summer Course of 2008.

The next Summer school in Madrid took place in the summer of 2011. During the same one, the case study and “Moot court” scheme that began in the Maastricht 2009 edition was used as it will be indicated later. A visit to the Prado Museum was scheduled with the students and also a visit with lunch to Toledo (with a hot day close to 40 degrees Celsius).

Academically highlight that EU Law, taught in 2008 by UNED faculty, was not taught since 2009 because it was understood that students already had knowledge of their previous undergraduate studies and that it would be better to devote time to comparative law and case studies that have been so useful in our Summer school. I must highlight the idea of the Republic of Transdanubia as an imaginary European republic that is the subject of different case studies and analysis during all these years. The other subjects have taken ideas from the activities of Constitutional Law and Transdanubia to motivate the debate in the classroom.

The 2014 edition was the latest hold in Madrid. The faculty has been practically the same in all the sessions, although with the idea of the “Moot Court” in the part of Economic Law (usually dedicated to problems of European consumer law, harmonized right to a large extent) joined the Law group Prof. Dr. Eva Domínguez, of the Commercial Law Department of the UNED.

The field of Criminal Law is where there has been more teacher mobility because the German Professor of 2008 and 2009 Kathrin Rentrop was replaced in 2010 by the Professor Kaj Kroeger. Professor José Núñez of UNED Spain was replaced by the Professor Dr. Elena Maculán of UNED in the years 2015 and 2016.

Professors Bernard Kresse (Economic Law, Germany) and Peter Lange (Civil Law, Holland) have not attended all the editions either. The first has been replaced by Dr. Frank Oppenheimer.

In the 2008 edition the Spanish national football team had just won the European Championship against Germany 1-0. This was repeatedly reminded to my colleagues by me. In Berlin 2010 Spain defeated Germany in the World Cup in South Africa 1-0 in the semifinals and 1-0 to the Netherlands in the final, which was a great happiness for me and an ordeal for my German and Dutch colleagues. In 2012 Spain won the European Championship again, this time against Italy and facing neither the Netherlands nor Germany.



As happiness does not always last, in the 2014 World Cup, the Netherlands gave Spain a football lesson in 2014 beating Spain 5-1 and eventually the Brazil World Cup was for Germany that defeated Argentina 1-0 in the World Cup Final.

Note that the German and Dutch students supported Spain in the 2012 final against Italy - we were all in Maastricht - and that I saw the Germany-Spain semifinal of South Africa 2010 in a Biergarten in Berlin surrounded by 800 Germans and as (possibly) the only Spanish there. My German colleagues congratulated me sportingly.



LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA 2015

The last edition of the Summer School in its two-week design took place in Spain but the Canary Islands were chosen for it. We must remember that Las Palmas is the second oldest UNED associated center in Spain, second only to Pontevedra. This was the first year in which the Legal English format was changed to that of a previous on-line course that was completed in person at the physical location. Lecturer Wanda Macedo (from the Netherlands) conducted it.

Very close to the UNED Center there is a hostel of the University of Las Palmas where the students stayed. A full-day visit to the island of Gran Canaria was scheduled with a final stop and swim in the south of the Island (Maspalomas) followed by a fraternity meal with the present lecturers and a former member of the 2011 Summer school who hosted the event in her condition of canarian.

All the local newspapers echoed the visit and in the second week the Moot Court took place in the facilities of the Superior Court of Justice of Las Palmas in the Vegueta neighborhood, being presided over by its President.



MÁLAGA 2017

Málaga was the second edition of the new one-week format for undergraduate students and another week for postgraduate students (Master's level). The UNED Center in Malaga welcomed us and for this purpose they rented the headquarters of new port facilities (very close to the end of Calle Larios, in the very heart of the city).

They visited the facilities of the Centre Pompidou in Malaga (the only foreign branch of the famous Parisian museum) and on Friday of both weeks the activity concluded with a paella in the port of Malaga for all the members of the school week. It was the first time that it was taken to a coastal place and the students and lecturers combined leisure and work.

The new format already included the on-line activity of "Intercultural communication" with a two-hour final classroom session led by Prof. Dr. Juan García Blesa of FERN UNI (despite his Spanish surname, he works at the German institution).

Both the UNED director Professor Dra Concha Travesedo and the UNED Director of activities Prof Dr Ramirez Arlandi threw themselves into the activity and it was a great success. A professor from the University of Salamanca, Dr. Vanessa Jiménez, joined the tasks of the Moot Court of Consumer Law.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN THE NETHERLANDS



MAASTRICHT 2009 & 2012

Both in 2009 and in 2012 the Summer school went to Maastricht: the accommodation of students and teachers was in university facilities in 2009 and in 2012 the teachers were housed in local hotels. The Center for Political Studies of the local university (The Dutch Open is based in Heerlen, about thirty kilometers away from Maastricht) was the framework of the activity.

It was the first year (2009) with “Moot court”. The professors were invested with suits of local lawyers and acted as judges. In 2012 the facilities of the Maastricht Courts were the framework for the Moot Court. Professor Dra Eva Domínguez from UNED Spain joined the activity in 2011 and in 2012 she repeated her contest. A full day of visits was dedicated to Brussels in both editions and to the premises of the EU Parliament and the European Commission where descriptive talks were given to us and we were able to photograph ourselves in the facilities of both institutions.

Maastricht is an emblematic European city and also for EDELNet and its origins. It also has a cosmopolitan past as it was administered for a time by the King and

Queen of Spain (Emperor Charles V was a native of nearby Ghent), on the French-speaking part of Belgium and finally belongs to the Netherlands, although a lot of toponyms still remind of the French-speaking period. A very student-friendly city, it is one of the favorites of the students because of the many amusements that the city offers. The 2012 edition was attended by the Spanish student M.C.M. who uses her wheelchair to move. The European Commission, always concerned about these issues, sought an adequate hotel for the afore mentioned student and his brother and facilities for his travel. The nights of Maastricht are always in our memory.

As an anecdote, the students made the penultimate day an international dinner prepared by themselves with dishes from each country or region of origin. It was a success of gastronomy and international university student coexistence.



ROTTERDAM 2018

A visit to the Port by speedboat gave us a glance of the magnificent situation of the most important and largest port in Europe (until the 90s it was the biggest in the world, now overtaken by a few Asian ports) in the activity prior to the farewell lunch the two Fridays of both courses (Master and Bachelor level) celebrated.

The very central NH hotel and the Dutch Open University in the most emblematic street of Rotterdam (in front of its town hall) welcomed us with magnificent weather, blue sky and warmth. Both weeks counted again with a Moot Court activity in Criminal Law (the editions of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 did not have “Criminal Law” as a theme) and it was really enjoyed by the Master Level students.

In fact, half of the students attended the Consumer Law Moot Court and the other half that of Criminal Law (in addition to the common activities for all of Intercultural Communication and Legal English). Professor Dr. Leyre Burguera of UNED Spain could not attend and was replaced by Prof Dr Luis Miguel Gonzalez de la Garza from the Constitutional Law Department of UNED Spain.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN GERMANY



COLOGNE 2013

The Erasmus funding of Erasmus Spain was in 2008 and 2009. The 2010 edition was financed by the three institutions and FERN UNI financed a part of the UNED expenses for its teaching staff. The following application was made in Erasmus Bonn for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 and the funding covered those three years. The three years as the three previous, 2014 and 2015 had the format of two weeks.

Cologne is the most open city in Germany and offers a great cultural activity. The activity took place in the facilities of the Hostel that served as accommodation for the students while the lecturers stayed in a nearby hotel.

As a novelty, the Erasmus authorities of Bonn paid a visit to the course as a courtesy and routine control. Cologne could not have the presence in "Criminal Law" of Spanish lecturer Dr José Nuñez who was replaced by UNED Professor Dr Mariano Melendo.

We visited the Parliament of the Rhineland Northern Westphalia in Düsseldorf and witnessed a session. Professor Haratsch (former FERN UNI dean) gave a talk on the European debt crisis in the countries of the south, in which MP Patrick Sensburg also participated (who we quoted at the beginning of this exhibition when talking about the origins of EDELNet and its SUMMERSCHOOL).

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BERLIN 2010 & 2016

Berlin had become, after the fall of the wall with the DDR, one of the most cosmopolitan cities of Europe and as such it received us. We stayed very centrally since the FERN UNI Center in Berlin is close to the Island of museums and the Cathedral. Very hot summer with a visit to the German Parliament conducted by the former student of the Summer school and the FERN UNI, MP Jens Spahn (2010 Edition).

In 2016 Professor Leyre Burguera from UNED Spain and the visiting professor at FERN UNI, Dr Dimitris Melissas from the University of Athens, joined the regular group of Professors/lecturers.

2016 was the first summer with Erasmus Plus funding and in the format of one week for Bachelor and one week for Master. Among the cultural visits, the visit of the City and the Reichstag, reformed by Norman Foster (famous British architect), as well as the difficult visit to the palace near Lake Wannsee, where authorities of the Third Reich met to take the sad decision that happened to the black history of Humanity as the “final solution”. It was a bitter moment of reflection for all.

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EDELNet eLibrary

Prof. Dr. Pablo de Diego Ángeles (Editor-in-chief)

Associate Professor UNED Faculty of Law

Vicedean of the Faculty

pdiego@der.uned.es

Obispo Trejo s/n 28040.Madrid. (Spain)

Credits

Text by Pablo de Diego.

Photo in page 8 from Tim Kohlen (<https://unsplash.com/@timkohlen>)

Photo in page 10 from Timo Stern (<https://unsplash.com/@timonrets>)

Members of E-Library Edelnet Newsletter team

Prof. Dr. Pedro A. Tamayo Lorenzo

Mr. Martin Von Hadel

Prof. Michiel Van Oesterzee