



The Mentoring Programme of the Sapientia University

My name is Noémi Hegyi and I am currently pursuing a Master of Arts Programme in International Relations and European Studies at the Central European University in Budapest. Previously, I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania and a Bachelor of Laws degree at the Babeş-Bolyai University.

I have been fortunate enough to study at multiple institutions and in multiple languages, which has been both personally enriching and essential in the construction of my motivational desire to improve myself. It has critically assisted me in the development of a more comprehensive knowledge of the EU, its terminology and functionality.

My academic and professional interests have been shaped by a number of factors, one decisive factor being my participation in the mentoring programme of the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania.

First of all, I have to admit that the combination of Law, International Relations and European Studies is quite a powerful combination. It has given me a privileged position. My particular interest lies in legal policy, especially in the implications for freedom of services, EU citizenship and the implementation of subsequent law on the national level.

Because of my aptitude for research and my extracurricular engagement, in 2011, I was admitted into the mentoring programme of the Sapientia University. In this position and as the result of a fruitful collaboration with my mentor, Professor Zsolt Kokoly, I successfully completed two research projects. These projects were entitled: 'From the "Services" Directive to a Well-Functioning Internal Market' and 'The Limitation of Freedom of Movement of Persons within the EU in the Light of the Case Law of the Romanian Courts'. These projects aimed at identifying the legal gaps and the most common obstacles to the free movement of services and persons within the EU. The results of this research were presented at several student conferences. The awards I obtained throughout several years of the Transylvanian Students' Conference (including second place in 2013 and first place and the Grand Prize of the Jury in 2012) demonstrate that the mentoring programme was successful. It was essential in the improvement of my competence for conducting individual researches.

Thanks to the patience and the great professional assistance that I received, I was offered the possibility of developing my analytical skills and the opportunity to further research both theoretical and more concrete aspects of case law in formulating my own conclusions. In the framework of the mentoring programme, personal consultations were complemented by various workshops which strengthened our communication, public speaking, research methods and designing skills.

I also participated in a mentoring programme in the field of institutional management. Having Professor Márton Tonk as a supervisor, I was offered another great opportunity of challenging myself by taking part in writing and drafting projects for the securing of funds. This activity gave me the perfect opportunity of developing a deeper knowledge in a new field, it contributed to the improvement of my interpersonal skills and it provided me with valuable practical experience.

So, what is the secret of the success of this programme? First and most important of all, there was dedication from both sides. But there was also the informal nature of the collaboration, flexibility and, at the same time, maintaining high-quality standards with the strong support of the institution. In the framework of this programme, the efforts of the students are highly recognized; they are given the opportunity to show their value and to make professional contacts. This is essential in their future integration into the job market. Through this programme, I learnt that I always have to try to conduct my research projects according to the highest possible quality standards. I whole-heartedly intend to continue this trend in my professional career. I can also proudly state that I have greatly benefited from the research environment this programme offered me during my years of study. The mentoring programme opened new doors for me with my subsequent admission into the CEU; it was in itself an amazing opportunity, one that allows me to place myself in a position to make the most of the future. I can only be ever grateful for the support of everyone who contributed to this programme. This experience helped me understand that academic development is not only a step towards future goals, but it is the goal itself.

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