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National Scientific Conference Report “Situation of disabled citizens in Poland and current global situation from the perspective of various areas from socio- economic life” Szczecin, 20–21 October 2022

National Scientific Conference entitled “Situation of disabled citizens in Poland and current global situation from the perspective of various areas from socio-economic life”, organized as a part of the project „Knowledge Centre of Accessibility in Szczecin”, financed by the grant awarded by National Centre for Research and Development (POWR.03.05.00-00-CW03/20) was held in Szczecin on 20 and 21 October 2022. The conference organized by the Faculty of Law and Administration at Szczecin University concerned the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The main objective of the conference was to focus on specific needs of persons with disabilities in today’s world as well as issues of introducing a systematic, contemporary solutions developed in accordance with modern technology in order to develop comprehensive model for protection of their rights. During the conference issues of both medical and systematic nature, belonging to the legal, medical pedagogical and sociological sciences were discussed. The conference was attended by local academic experts representing 19 academic centers who delivered 46 lectures. The conference was opened by dr hab. Renata Podgórzńska, prof. of Szczecin University, Vice-dean for Education, referring to the topicality of the undertaken issues and their role in building society based on social inclusion. Next to speak was dr hab. Ewelina Cała-Wacinkiewicz, Dean and professor the Faculty of Law and Administration of Szczecin University thanking the guests for coming and introducing the subject of the conference. The conference consisted of six panels, held over two days. One of the panels was held remotely.

The first panel, which started the session, concerned introductory issues and approached the participants to the legal situation of persons with disabilities and their functioning in society.

The panel was started by dr hab. Agnieszka Bień-Kacała, prof. of Szczecin University who presented the “Protection of individual rights in illiberal constitutionalism”. Then, the

speech entitled “Social policy in relations to disabilities current state and development prospect” was delivered by dr hab. Magdalena Małecka-Łyszczek, prof. of Cracow University of Economics. Subsequently, dr hab. Irena Ramik-Mażewska, prof. of Szczecin University presented “Contemporary determinants of the quality of life with disabilities”. Next, was dr hab. Teresa Żółkowska, prof. of Szczecin University who introduced her paper entitled “Law in the word of intellectual disability”. In the last speech in the first panel, Jakub Baranowski presented his paper entitled “The impact of new technologies on the perceptions of disability, example of the Simulation Room of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Szczecin”.

The second panel concerned the legal conditions of accessibility and began with the speech by dr hab. Jerzy Menkes prof. of Warsaw School of Economics entitled “Legal capacity of a disabled person from the perspective of international law”. Then, spoke up dr hab. Tadeusz Gadkowski prof. of Adam Mickiewicz University, who together with Maria Mamot and Adrianna Szczygieł carried on with their paper entitled “Incapacitation of persons with disabilities from Polish and European perspective”. The speech entitled “The civil law situation of the elderly with disabilities of old age” was delivered by dr hab. Małgorzata Balwicka-Szczyrba prof. of University of Gdańsk. Subsequently, dr Katarzyna Malinowska-Woźniak from Szczecin University, presented “Civil law aspects of running a business by disabled people who do not have full legal capacity”. Then, dr Iwona Warchoń, University of Technology and Humanities in Radom gave the audience a paper called “Social Welfare Institutions in Poland for persons with disabilities of old age”. Tomasz Sienkiewicz, PhD and Professor of Catholic University of Szczecin familiarized all participants with “The administrative and legal dimension of the conflict of values in the social rehabilitation of disabled people between the need to eliminate architectural barriers and the obligation to protect immovable monuments”. Then, dr Ewa Kowalewska, together with Dominika Wróblewska both from Szczecin University presented “Tax preferences for disabled people”. Dr Radosław Zych, Szczecin University, introduced the subject with “Persons with disabilities in the light of Polish Election Commission reports and statements of international observations”. At the end of the panel, Piotr Zielonka from Szczecin University delivered a paper “Accessibility of justice for people with special needs” (the paper was co-authored with dr Adriana Tomczyk, Szczecin University).

Simultaneously with the second panel, the third panel devoted to non-legal conditions of accessibility was held. The panel was started dr hab. Zdzisława Janiszewska-Nieścioruk, prof. of University of Zielona Góra presenting “The social and educational dimension of poverty of people with disability”. Then, dr Katarzyna Wojciechowska and Sylwia Trafna-Jurkiewicz (Psychiatry Clinic in Toruń, Clinical Department of Adolescent Psychiatry) introduced “The situation of minors in mental crisis after the pandemic from the perspective of the Psychiatry Clinic in Toruń”. Whereas, dr Joanna Buława-Halasz, Szczecin University delivered a paper entitled “An adult with autism spectrum disorder as an invisible citizen”.

Dr Barbara Superson representing Pedagogical University in Cracow presented the result of research on “Social Perceptions of Disability in Burundi (East Africa)”. Dr Anna Wiczorek-Szymańska, Szczecin University presented “Disability Management as an element

of diversity strategy – an overview of selected practices in contemporary organizations”. Małgorzata Rusiłowicz (Primary School in Białostoczek) presented a paper entitled “Disabled people at school – integration in Polish theory and practice”. Appearance of Marcin Garbat and dr Katarzyna Kochan, both representing University of Zielona Góra was called “Disabled students in Poland – inclusion or illusion”. Dr Anna Bieganowska-Skóra, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin introduced the participants to the models of disability in the speech entitled “Disability models in the context of accessibility”. Dr Katarzyna Skalska (Natural and Humanistic University in Siedlce) presented a paper “What is not solved by universal design? Pedagogical reflection on social reality”. The panel ended with the speech by Paweł Robak, Catholic University of Lublin, entitled “Universal design in higher education – educating or creating?”.

The first day of the meeting ended with the fourth panel, during which a session of messages was held, which consisted of the following speeches: Inga Mikee (West Pomeranian Department, State Found for Rehabilitation at Disabled People), “Postulated system solutions to facilitate professional and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities”; Marta Hylewska, (Jagiellonian University), “Principle of equality of prohibition and discrimination in the context of persons with diabetes”.

The second day of the conference began with the fifth panel – “Disability and international law”. Dr hab. Anna Kosińska, prof. of Szczecin University opened the lecture entitled “The need for special protection of migrants with disabilities, a proposal for new institutions to guarantee fundamental rights”. Then, dr Grzegorz Tutak, Catholic University of Lublin presented a lecture entitled “The role of non-governmental organizations in the process of integration foreigners with disabilities into society”. Dr Ilona Topa, University of Silesia presented the speech “International law towards deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities”.

Furthermore, dr Agnieszka Wedeł-Domaradzka, PhD (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz) presented “The rights of children with disabilities vs institutional care from international perspective”. Dr Zuzanna Kulińska-Kępa, Warsaw University gave a speech entitled “Cosmos for persons with disabilities from an international legal perspective”.

Dr hab. Katarzyna Małyś-Sulińska (Jagiellonian University) and dr hab. Przemysław Kledzik, prof. of Szczecin University presented a paper “The system of benefits for carers of disabilities. Reality and expectations”. After a short break, dr Maciej Domański, PhD (Institute of Justice, Warsaw University) introduced participants the speech entitled “Exemplary implementation of art. 12 of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in Peruvian law”. Then, dr Ewa Milczarek from Szczecin University gave a lecture “The rights access of persons with disabilities to technology”. Whereas, Michał Beer presented “The rights of persons with disabilities to Cultural Heritage”. On the other hand, dr hab. Iwona Wrońska, University of Białystok presented the participants “The rights of persons with disabilities in Estonia from the perspective on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. At the end of this panel, dr Łukasz Orylski (Centre for the Rights Persons with Disabilities Foundation) delivered the paper entitled “Is assistance in Poland personal? Analysis of national solutions in the field of Personal Assistant for Persons with

Disabilities under the practice and General Commentary No. 5 to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”.

Simultaneously with the fifth panel, the sixth panel, a remote session, was held in a hybrid formula. The panel was began with the speech by dr hab. Czesław Kłąka PhD , prof. of Pedagogical University of Cracow (National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution, Employment Service) entitled “Disabled victim in a Polish criminal trial”. After that, was the speech presented by dr hab. Jacek Sobczak, prof. of Economics and Humanities Academy in Warsaw entitled “Mobility, equal opportunities and integration of persons with disabilities in the legal system of the European Union (EU)”. Dr hab. Ksenia Kakareko, prof. of Warsaw University presented “Access to published works by blind persons, visually impaired persons and persons with disabilities that prevent them from reading print in the light of Marrakesh Treaty and EU normative solutions”. Agnieszka Kunnert-Diallo (Polish Airlines S.A.) gave a lecture entitled “Legal protection of persons with disabilities in international air transport. Subsequently, Dr Joanna Sobiecka and dr Anna Zwierzchowska both professors of Academy of Physical Education presented the socio-demographic profile of Polish Paralympians and its evolution as well as legal conditions in the period of 1972–2021. Dr Anna Drabarz, University of Białystok gave a presentation entitled “Disability legal studies in Poland about the prospects for the development of new sub-disciplines in legal sciences. Next, dr Małgorzata Kun-Buczko (University of Białystok) gave the presentation on “Practical aspects of the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflicts on the example of the war in Ukraine”. At the end of this panel, Jakub Zwierzchowski submitted a document entitled “Integration of Polish sports centers and the law on sports. Both panels taking place on the second day ended with a discussion”.

The meeting was summed up by dr hab. Wojciech Staszewski, prof. of Szczecin University, project manager of the University Centre of Accessibility in Szczecin, who thanked the participants for the interesting exchange of thoughts and experiences in the situation of persons with disabilities in Poland and around the world. Papers presenting during the conference will be published.

CITATION

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