



# Central & Eastern European Moot Competition

## Best Speaker CEEMC 2021 (Online)

### Nino Sakvarelidze (Free University of Tbilisi)



Participating in the CEEMC was a repeat attempt for me, as my initial try coincided with the onset of the pandemic in 2020. As the world was put on halt, I chose not to lose the sight of the CEEMC and once life resumed, I decided to give it another go.

Before I knew it, I found myself on a team with two of my closest friends, Anna Jiqia and Mariam Geguchadze, whom I trusted both on a professional and on a personal level.

Having juggled our roles as full-time students and full-time workers, we faced a number of sleepless nights during our CEEMC preparation. Nevertheless, as the world was shut down, I looked forward to the 7+ hour daily zooms with two of the brightest young lawyers in Georgia.

It was not all romantic. Despite having experiences in the Jessup International Law Competition, the Jean Pictet Humanitarian Law Competition, Client Consulting Competition and others, I found the CEEMC particularly challenging. The Court of Justice's judgments, albeit succinct, were difficult to dissect and because our team did not have a coach or an in-depth understanding of EU law (at least at the beginning of the competition) often left me and my team mates puzzled and unsure of the process. Despite these challenges, we motivated each other by remembering the exceptional prizes

that the CEEMC offers to its top-performing students: A visit to the UK (inc. the University of Cambridge, the UK Supreme Court and Inner Temple) for the winning team and the coveted traineeship at the Court of Justice of the EU for the best speaker. Knowing that self-belief is the key, I approached the competition with confidence, promising to give it my best. Being part of my wonderful team made both the end goal and the process something to remember.

Today, here I stand, having not only cherished the trip to the UK with my lifelong friends but also having completed my professional traineeship at the Court of Justice of the EU in the Cabinet of Judge Jan M. Passer, to whom I am extremely grateful.



During my two weeks at the Court, I had a chance to learn about the intricacies of the judicial system, read into the fascinating case law, attend live hearings and witnessed legal battles between the parties. Most importantly, I was given an opportunity to interact with the community that the Court of Justice is built on.

What stands out the most as time goes by is the welcoming environment I felt and the hospitality I received from Judge Passer's entire cabinet.

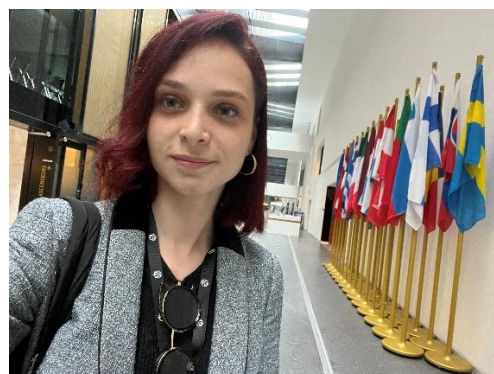
It was an honour to have direct interactions with Judge Passer himself, who generously shared his invaluable guidance and wisdom regarding both my professional and personal path. To receive mentorship from someone of his stature was a privilege.

Moreover, I had the opportunity to connect with individual members of the cabinet. Whether through working together on assigned tasks as an intern or during the delightful dinner hosted at the Court of Justice's restaurant, I was warmly welcomed into this community of legal professionals.

Furthermore, what struck me throughout my experience of the Court of Justice was the community of the 70+ interns I had a chance to interact with during my days at the Court. Not only I could feel the professional and educational aspects of the internship, but the cultural aspect of it as well.

Even though today I am making my strides in the world of Finance, Investment Banking M&A I know that soon enough, in one capacity or another, I will lean closer to the field of law and I am confident that the network I was able to be part of will come into place again.

Coming from Georgia, which aspires to one day become a member of the European Union, interning at the Court was a deeply symbolic experience. As I took a selfie at the first floor of the Court of Justice, showcasing the flags of the member states of the European Union I wished to re-take the photo with the flag of Georgia in it soon enough.



I am extremely glad that I participated in the CEEMC, both for the incredible professional opportunities it provided and for the personal friendships I have made. Why not see for yourself?

