

Central & Eastern European Moot Competition

CEEMC 2022 (Budapest)

Winning Team's Report (University of Ljubljana)

The three of us - Žana Lapajne, Masha Korošec and Nika Podakar – are students at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana. We had the opportunity to participate at the Central and Eastern Europe Moot Competition (CEEMC) in Budapest that took place between 6th and 8th May 2022. As the winners of the 2022 competition, we received a funded prize which enabled us to visit London and Cambridge in December 2022. This prize, and the CEEMC as a whole, was kindly funded by sponsorship provided by <u>Clifford Chance (Warsaw)</u>, the <u>European Investment Bank</u> and <u>Inner Temple</u>. We are extremely grateful for their support!



Our visit began in in London, where we stayed at accommodation which was surrounded by various bars, so we had a chance to experience the varied and colourful London nightlife. Christmas was certainly in the air! We then visited the UK's Supreme Court and had the pleasure of meeting Lord Richards of Camberwell, one of the Justices of the Court. Lord Richards was called to the Bar at Inner Temple, after studying at Trinity College, Cambridge. After a very pleasant chat with Lord Richards about the favourite cases that he worked on and other important peaks of his career, we had a chance to watch some of a Supreme



Next, we visited the **Honourable Society of the Inner Temple** (one of CEEMC's sponsors and a huge supporter). Thanks to *Jennie Collis Price* we had a meeting with <u>Greg Dorey (Sub-Treasurer)</u> and <u>Kieron</u> <u>Beal KC of Blackstone Chambers</u> who showed us around their gorgeous libraries and study rooms. After the tour, we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the main cafeteria. We also got a chance to see the Inner temple choir at one of their practices.

Of course, we also took the opportunity to explore Oxford Street and do some sightseeing in London. We followed our traditional English breakfast with some Christmas shopping and a nice walk by the Thames. We also went to the Tower of London and the London Eye.

Our next stop was the University of Cambridge where, thanks to the support of <u>Dr Jonathan</u> <u>Morgan</u> we were able to stay at <u>Corups Christii college</u>, right in the middle of the city centre. We also had the opportunity to meet <u>Prof. Catherine Barnard</u> who showed us around the beautiful <u>Trinity</u> <u>College</u>.



Cambridge has a huge variety of places to spend your evenings – a lot of pubs, nightclubs etc. During our stay, the World Cup was being played in Quatar. We were able to benefit from this by watching a football game (England v Senegal) in one of the pubs, surrounded by locals. It was a fun experience seeing everyone so invested in the game.

This really was an amazing trip, not only because we were able to experience the beautiful London and Cambridge at (almost) Christmas time, but because we were fortunate enough to meet so many senior members of the UK's legal community.

Preparing for the CEEMC and mooting in the various rounds in Budapest was definitely not easy, but it was certainly worth it. The competition itself, held in beautiful Budapest in May 2022, was fantastic and ended with an amazing party on Sunday night, to top-off the hard work which preceded that. The pride and enjoyment of winning the competition was, by itself, enough of a reward, but the trip to the UK made it even more special and memorable.

To anyone who is thinking of participating in the CEEMC, please know this. The experience is amazing. The CEEMC judges sound rather scary on paper (they included judges, Advocates General and other senior representatives from the CJEU and EFTA, Inner Temple, Cambridge and other leading Universities, and senior members of the legal professions), but they were all really friendly in person. We had a great opportunity to meet and socialise with teams from throughout the CEE region and to enjoy ourselves tremendously. Hard work is required if you want to do well in the competition, but it is definitely worth it!