

TOMASZ BOJANOWSKI* – KLAUDIA ŁUNIEWSKA** –
AGATA WRÓBEL*** – ALAN KOSECKI****

Report on International Scientific Conferences: 'The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age – in general terms' and 'Content of the right to parental responsibility in the legal orders of Central and Eastern Europe – Selected Problems'

- **ABSTRACT:** *The report concerns two international scientific conferences organized by the Institute of Justice in Warsaw within the framework of the Central European Professors' Network coordinated by Miskolc University, Central European Academy. The conferences discussed the following topics: 'The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age – in general terms' and 'Content of the right to parental responsibility in the legal orders of Central and Eastern Europe – Selected Problems.' The conferences were attended by prominent legal researchers from Central Europe, whose papers presented contribute to deeper research into the problems of law in the realities of the twenty-first century.*
- **KEYWORDS:** human rights, freedoms, right to privacy, right to parental responsibility, international law, national law, Central Europe

* M.A. Tomasz Bojanowski is a PhD student at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland, ORCID: 0000-0001-8294-0968, tomaszbojanowski@gmail.com.

** M.A. Klaudia Łuniewska is a graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland, ORCID: 0000-0002-3546-3414, klaudiakarolinaluniewska@gmail.com

*** Agata Wróbel is a law student at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland, ORCID: 0000-0003-1809-0334, agatawrobel.poczta@gmail.com.

**** Alan Kosecki is a law student at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland, ORCID: 0000-0002-9544-9905, alan8085@wp.pl.



1. Introduction

In the first week of June 2022 (June 1–2), two scientific conferences organized by the Institute of Justice in Warsaw as part of the Central European Professors' Network coordinated by Miskolc University, Central European Academy took place. The participants included the best legal academics from Central European countries.

2. About the conference 'The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age – in general terms'

On June 1, 2022, the International Scientific Conference 'The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age – in general terms' was organized by the Institute of Justice as part of the Central European Professors' Network in cooperation with a group of experts from seven countries—Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The aim of this research project and conference is a comprehensive international scientific activity, and its main topics include parental responsibility, environmental protection, protection of national symbols, and the right to privacy.

The event was devoted to the right to privacy in various legal perspectives. This right is of particular value for human life and has been ensured by several regulations, both national and international. The right to privacy has been placed in the most important documents concerning human rights and has also been confirmed by the constitutions of modern states and included in the national legal orders. The constant development of innovative technologies and the progressive digitization of subsequent areas of human life have led to the emergence of the information society. The development of information technology (IT) and information and communication technology (ICT) solutions, as well as the transfer of individuals' lives to the virtual space and its related benefits, has also led to the emergence of new threats to the right to privacy. It is necessary to provide adequate guarantees of this right and legal mechanisms for the legal protection of private life.

The thematic scope of the conference focused on current issues related to the right to privacy and the dissemination of innovative technologies, as well as the development of the information society. During the conference proceedings, attention was paid to the current challenges and problems facing the right to privacy in the era of socioeconomic changes that have occurred in recent decades due to the digital revolution. The conference discussed current issues related to the right to privacy and the development of innovative technologies as well as the emergence of the information society. As part of the conference, universal

standards regarding the right to privacy and the problems faced by legislators and the judiciary of Central European countries were presented. Particular attention has been paid to determining the limits of the right to privacy and ensuring effective mechanisms of legal protection that can be introduced into national legal order.

The conference, with English as the working language, was attended by experts from the most important research centers in Central Europe, including *Professor János Ede Szilágyi*, Head of the Ferenc Madl Institute for Comparative Law, and *Dr Katarzyna Zombory*, Director of the Central European Academy, and it was a great occasion to discuss the most urgent problems related to the right to privacy. *Máté Gergely*, First Secretary and Representative of the Embassy of Hungary, was also present.

■ 2.1. First Panel

The Director of the Institute of Justice, *Professor Marcin Wielec*, officially opened the event, and guests were welcomed by the Undersecretary of State, Dr Marcin Romanowski, who was attending on behalf of the Polish Ministry of Justice. Wielec claimed that the cooperation of researchers in Central Europe is important and worth exploring, especially because the common legal tradition of Central Europe countries has Christian roots. The cooperation in the Central European Professors' Network allows to discuss urgent topics and directions in which the law should move in Central Europe. The Undersecretary of State highlighted two important elements in such a cooperation—the choice of the area of law that must be urgently discussed and the choice of the group of experts—and believed that, with regard to the Central European Professors' Network, these two aims had been successfully achieved.

After the conference opening and the welcoming speech on behalf of the Polish Ministry of Justice, the conference participants listened to the welcoming speech on behalf of the Central European Academy by *Dr Katarzyna Zombory*, its Director. Dr Zombory thanked the experts for the mutual work on the project. The main goal of the Central European Academy is to create an academic network of legal experts who represent young perspective of research, and the conference is about the right to privacy and the assumptions and challenges of this right in the digital age.

The next speaker of the event was *Professor János Ede Szilágyi*, who thanked the previous speakers and introduced the Central European Junior Programme, which focuses on junior research and has important links to the senior program. This project has four potential links among this centered communities: PhD students/CEA Interns, PhD supervisors, PhD course books, and institutional cooperation. The professor exhaustively described each of the elements of this program, in which students can, for example, actively organize and attend international conferences and other scientific events. It is also an outstanding opportunity for

doctoral students as it provides insights into research and publication processes across various themes of comparative law.

After Professor Szilágyi's presentation of the Central European Junior Programme, *Dr Grzegorz Ociecek*, who is an advisor to the State Prosecutor, Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminal Proceedings of the Faculty of Law, and Administration of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, made a special guest appearance. In his speech, entitled 'Analysis of the institution of a crown witness in the context of the right to privacy,' he analyzed this institution as a starting point for further discussion on the issues among crown witness and right to privacy. Dr Ociecek referred to the effect he achieved on the institution of a crown witness thanks to his research, pointing out the distinction between small and large crown witnesses in the Polish legislation. He described the right to privacy in the case of crown witness in light of interviews in criminal proceedings but also in light of the reasons why the defendant decides to become a crown witness, and indicated about six reasons that may influence one's decision. One of them is a family situation, and another one is a Polish crown witness protection program. Then, Dr Ociecek described the cooperation of crown witness in view of the right to privacy. Thanks to his research, Dr Grzegorz Ociecek published his own scientific publication entitled 'Crown witness. Assessment of credibility,' where he expands on the topic of his lecture.

During the conference, the participants had the opportunity to listen to *Professor Vanja-Ivan Savić* from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, whose presentation was entitled 'Whom do the Privacy Laws Protect? – Concepts and Developments.' Professor Savić devoted the speech to a consideration of the subjective scope of the right to privacy provisions, and in addition, he spoke about the current concepts and the development of this institution. He considered whether it is possible to speak of a corporation's privacy and right to privacy, the latter of which is a current problem because of the popularity of social media, where everyone posts every aspect of their lives. For this reason, it is necessary to think about whom the privacy laws protect and if it is possible to execute this right in the twenty-first century. In his lecture, Savić asked the question of what values in the right to privacy area are currently protected by society; these seem to be security, individual liberty, and privacy. To sum up his speech, Professor Savić referred to the historical process of change in the right to privacy in societies where community was a major value to the individual and their rights.

Professor Koltay András from the University of Public Service and the Pázmány Péter Catholic University was the next speaker at the international scientific conference 'The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age – in general terms.' He presented the protection of the private sphere in Hungary and freedom of expression, giving a view of the provisions that allow to protect the private sphere and freedom of expression in the country. His lecture was coordinated within the privacy of personal data and the protection of private information.

Another speaker at the conference was *Professor Matija Damjan* from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, who presented a speech entitled ‘The protection of communication privacy of legal entities – Slovenian view.’ The participants had the occasion to hear and learn about the communication privacy of legal entities in the Slovenian legal system, which was especially interesting in the light of previous—Hungarian—perspective. Professor Damjan explained how the protection of communication privacy is regulated in the constitutional provisions and how it is possible to use those provisions with legal entities. The issue Damjan was referring to is also divided into two sections: an inner circle and an outer circle of privacy. In the outer circle of privacy, free economic initiative is limited, and the state can establish the conditions for conducting economic activity to protect other constitutional values. On the other hand, the inner circle of privacy deals with the same conditions applied for the search of a natural person’s home—an agency’s decision does not suffice in the context of right to privacy.

After the Hungarian and Slovenian points of view, *Professor Marta Dragičević Prtenjača* from the University of Zagreb spoke about the right to privacy and its protection in Croatian contemporary criminal law, presenting general data, statistics, and her personal research effects about the right to privacy in criminal law but also about the increasing amount of convicted people. In Croatia, many acts regulate the privacy of a convicted person, and one of them is the Constitution of Croatia. Professor Marta Dragičević Prtenjača told the participants about the right to individual privacy in criminal law, which was a great addition to the previous speaker’s presentation about legal entities. Thus, the participants had the opportunity to learn both sides of this right and to have an overview of the situation in two different legal systems. The most frequent criminal offence is the unlawful use of personal data but also the violation of the inviolability of home and business premises. In the end, Professor Dragičević Prtenjača called for caution when it comes to personal data and their protection; this is extremely important from a criminal point of view.

Professor Dušan Popović from the University of Belgrade spoke about privacy and data protection in Serbian law and highlighted the challenges in the digital environment attached to privacy and data protection. Collecting, keeping, and using personal data in Serbia is strictly regulated and protected. One of the issues raised by the presenter was the right to respect privacy and family life and the protection of correspondence. Every aspect of these rights was described based on legislative solutions in Serbia. Undoubtedly, the valuable addition was a concise presentation of the issue of the right to privacy in the context of civil and criminal law. Two areas that necessitate additional legislative and enforcement effort are that mass surveillance is not regulated by specific norms and the need to reinforce children’s privacy protection mechanisms in the digital environment.

■ 2.2. *Second Panel*

During the conference, the Director of the Institute of Justice, *Professor Marcin Wielec* from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, also gave a speech about the implementation of the right to privacy in Polish criminal proceedings. He considered this topic in the example of the secret of confession and indicated that privacy has some features such as autonomy, self-existence, intimacy, and naturalness. He claimed that, at some point, the right to privacy in criminal law can be eliminated because criminal proceedings are a complicated mechanism in an implementation of *ius puniendi*—the state’s law of punishment. Criminal proceedings are full of institutions that can violate the right to privacy. During the speech, Professor Wielec asked a question: ‘where is right to privacy in criminal proceedings?’ In this area, a specific balance must be found, and an appropriate example in the search for an answer to the question posed earlier is the characteristic of the institution of the secret of confession. The prohibition arising from the secret of confession helps to ensure the right to privacy in criminal proceedings. The speaker explained that the right to privacy relates to emotions, and the secret of confession is the best example of this because of the relationship and trust between confessor and penitent.

The conference was also an occasion to hear a lecture by *Professor David Sehnálek* from the University of Masaryk, whose speech was entitled ‘Current Problems of the Right to Privacy in the Czech Republic.’ The participants had the opportunity to learn about how the right to privacy is regulated in the Constitution of the Czech Republic. The problematic aspects in the Czech Republic legal system starts with the definition of the term ‘privacy,’ which was explained by Professor Sehnalek in detail during his lecture. Sehnalek also focused on personal data with regard to the criminal side of the right to privacy by appealing to the Code of Criminal Procedure. The most current aspect of the speech was about the right to privacy during the COVID-19 pandemic and the problems generated by this extraordinary situation.

Professor Katarína Šmigová from the Pan-European University in Bratislava was the next speaker, telling the participants about the challenges of the right to privacy in the digital age in the Slovak Republic. The professor drew attention to the very rapid digitalization of social life and the developments in cyberspace and cybersecurity in a broadcast sense. It clearly generated problems with provisions in Slovak Republic as same as in the other countries. An important aspect emphasized by Professor Smigova was that the problems with the right to privacy can be seen on various grounds—constitutional, civil, and on provisions referring to children and their protection. One of many aspects was unauthorized monitoring, for example, in the Labor Code —possibility of control of employees and means and forms of control. The main thesis of this speech was that the Slovak legislation is too slow and too outdated for this changing area of law.

The last speaker was *M.A. Bartłomiej Oręziak* from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, who is also a Coordinator of the Center for Strategic Analyses of Institute of Justice. His presentation focused on the legal aspects of the right to privacy from perspective of the Republic of Poland. Mr. Oręziak had previously spoken about the cyberspace and its regulation; therefore, it was possible to compare the provisions and the problems generated by them. Participants were able to listen to the right to privacy in light of the Polish constitution. The speaker also stressed the role of the Polish Constitutional Tribunal, which stated that in one provision, two individual rights referred to the right to privacy. Constitutional relations are the most important to guarantee person's rights and freedoms, but the constitutional aspect was not the only aspect highlighted in this speech. The right to privacy may also be enforced and ensured under civil law provisions as it is one of the personal rights of human being. The speaker believed that civil provisions can be successfully applied in cyberspace conditions. He also noted the most urgent problems with applying these provisions, such as the anonymity of cyberspace users as it is hard to determine their personalities. The second significant problem is the difficulty in determining the applicable law related to the third problem: it is hard to determine the jurisdiction of a cyberspace user. After describing the constitutional and civil points of view, the speaker briefly mentioned the criminal law and administrative law aspects of the right to privacy in cyberspace.

■ 2.3. *Closing remarks*

After both panels of the conference, the speakers were able to share their insights and ask each other about interesting issues in a wide-ranging discussion. After the first panel, the question arose of whether anyone in Poland can be a crown witness and in what kind of criminal offence someone can become a crown witness. The answer was held by a special guest, Dr. Grzegorz Ociecek, who explained that the crown witness status can only be granted for offences committed as part of an organized criminal group. He also explained the cause of such a provision. Another question was about artificial intelligence and how robots collecting personal data can be trusted. The answer is that we cannot trust those who have our personal data with certainty, but we rely on the state, which must provide protection and security. When speaking about legal entities and collecting personal data, we do not know who exactly collects and stores those data: is it a manager or employee of the company? This is an important topic to consider in another research year and conference.

The last question was concerned with the court's position on whether DNA can be collected, stored, and used in a trial in the Czech Republic. Professor Sehnalek said that if the police carefully justifies the reasons for collecting it and using it in a proportional way in a restricted measure, DNA can be collected legally.

At the end of the international scientific conference ‘The right to Privacy in the Digital Age – in general terms,’ Professor Marcin Wielec, Director of the Institute of Justice, thanked all the participants for their participation in the meeting and in discussions.

3. About the Conference ‘Content of the right to parental responsibility in the legal orders of Central and Eastern Europe – Selected Problems’

On June 2, 2022, an International Scientific Conference entitled ‘Content of the right to parental responsibility in the legal orders of Central and Eastern Europe – Selected Problems’ was organized in the Institute of Justice as part of the central European Professors’ Network in cooperation of group of experts from seven countries: Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The aim of this research project and conference (as a part of it) is a comprehensive, international scientific activity. The main research areas are parental responsibility, environmental protection, the protection of national symbols, and the right to privacy.

In the European legal culture, which is shaped based on Greek philosophy, Judeo-Christian religion, and Roman law, the concepts of family, parenthood, motherhood, and fatherhood are among the fundamental values that have been questioned in the last few decades. Therefore, there is a need for scientific reflection on one of the key aspects in this field, namely parental responsibility, in the legal systems of Central and Eastern European countries, based on a similar constitutional axiology. Selected problems were presented during the conference, such as the concept of parental authority and responsibility, constitutional axiology in the field of parental authority, protection of parental authority in the system of sources of law, the concept of a parent, the concept of a child, rights and obligations arising from parental authority, rights and obligations of parents, rights and obligations of a child in relation to parental authority, rules governing parental authority, special features resulting from the content of parental responsibility, parental authority and divorce, the status of a child not subject to parental authority, and *de lege ferenda* conclusions. The number of topics discussed by the speakers proves that the main area of the conference touched upon an extremely prominent issue from the point of view of private life but also from a legal perspective. Those are the most urgent problems that need to be researched and discussed.

The conference, with English as the working language, was attended by experts from the most important research centers in Central Europe, including *Professor Aleksandra Korać Graovac* from the University of Zagreb in Croatia; *Professor Lilla Garayová* from the Pan-European University in Bratislava; *Professor Aleksander Stepkowski*, judge in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Poland; *Professor*

Zdeňka Králíčková from the University of Brno in the Czech Republic; Professor Marek Andrzejewski from the Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Poland; and many more excellent researchers. The Undersecretary of State Dr. Marcin Romanowski; the Head of the Ferenc Mádl Institute for Comparative Law, Professor János Ede Szilágyi; and the Director-General of the University of Miskolc – Central European Academy, Dr. Katarzyna Zombory, were also present that day.

■ 3.1. First Panel

The Vice Director of the Institute of Justice, Professor Paweł Sobczyk, officially opened the event, starting his speech with some questions related to parental responsibility: who should be responsible for raising children? The parents, the school, the state, or NGOs? In answering these questions, he referred to the Christian—but not only—roots of Central European culture and to the values of family, motherhood, and fatherhood. This introduction was a good reflection of the topics that were then vividly discussed by the speakers.

After the opening of the conference, the participants had the pleasure of listening to the introduction lecture given by Professor Aleksander Stępkowski, judge in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Poland, who started his speech by stating that the very development of man is inherit to family life. The family is the basic structure of common good and a constitutional right. Although it can be said that the family is a fundamental, in modern society, it to be one of the most problematic structures. An important matter of this speech was about the Polish constitution, the provisions of which are designed to provide family protection; they also impose obligations on the state, which is responsible for this protection. This protection includes the issue of parental authority and parental autonomy.

During the conference, research results were also presented by Professor Aleksandra Korać Graovac from the University of Zagreb, who spoke about the content of the right to parental responsibility in Croatia. The professor described parental care and parental responsibility in light of the concept of these terms. In a lecture, the speaker touched upon the issue of foster parenthood, giving—among other things—the example of the court's actions *contra legem* in allowing the adoption of a child by homosexual couples. She also explained what the problem is with this matter: such a court judgement is incompatible with a legal act; thus, the Croatian legal system, which is in general a statutory law, has become partly a case law system. This is also a problem because it does not entail a decision made by a constitutional court, which is permissible by Croatian constitution. Beyond that, a significant part of the speech was about the best interest of a child and shared parental responsibility.

The next speaker, Professor Zdeňka Králíčková from the University of Brno, dealt with the same issues as previous speakers but focused on the regulation of parental responsibility in the Czech Republic. The professor presented the

historical aspect of terminology in family law and the concept of terms attached to parental authority. She also described and then compared parental responsibility and the institution attached to that based on legal provisions. An important topic of her speech was concerned with minor parents and parents with disorders. The considerations undertaken by the professor were summarized by presenting the jurisprudence of the Czech court.

The first panel of the event was an opportunity to listen to lectures about parental responsibility also from a Hungarian, Slovenian, and Slovakian point of view.

Professor Tímea Heinerné Barzó from the University of Miskolc addressed Hungarian regulations. The presentation covered topics such as a brief constitutional regulation of parental responsibility, the protection of parental authority, and legal assistance. The issue of alternate care was discussed in detail. Through the presentation of court decisions, the audience was able to understand the mechanism of ensuring the child's best interest under Hungarian legislation.

The content of the right to parental responsibility in Slovenia was a concern of *Professor Suzana Kraljić* from the University of Maribor, who spoke about Slovenian family law regulations starting with the historical aspect of Yugoslavia. After the separation from Yugoslavia, Slovenia had to create new law that would regulate social law, including family law. The new Family Code was implemented in 2017. Speaking about the marriage situation in Slovenia, the professor noted that it is possible for same-sex couples to enter into a civil union, which is similar to marriage but with some differences such as adoption or in-vitro procedures. Much of the speech was therefore devoted to the historical development of the legislation and regulations establishing the rights of parents and children, as well as the development of some crucial terms such as 'child' or 'parenthood.'

The final speaker on the first panel of the conference was *Professor Lilla Garayová* from the Pan-European University in Bratislava, whose speech concerned the right to parental responsibility in Slovakia. The main source of family law in Slovakia is the Family Act from 2005, due to which it is possible to say that parental responsibility includes complex group of rights and obligations such as representation of the minor, care, or administration of the child's property. Both parents should exercise parental rights and responsibilities equally. Although constant care is inseparable from parental responsibility, the speaker points out that it is an undefined concept because no provision explains what can be understood by constant care. It is just a one of the issues attached to the right to paternal responsibility, and statutory law must therefore make use of judgments. It was also worth to note that differences exist in the representation of the child by the parents depending on the age of the minor. Until the child can decide for themselves, parental authority will continue to diminish year by year in this regard.

■ 3.2. *Second Panel*

The second panel of the conference began with a speech of *Professor Gordana Kovaček Stanić*, whose lecture was entitled ‘Exercise of the Parental Rights after Divorce: Best Interests of the Child.’ The professor decided to talk about some issues related to parental responsibility but from a comparative point of view. The basis for consideration of the topic of the child’s best interest was to characterize the institution of divorce and its impact on the relationship between parents and children. The professor noted that it is obvious for divorce to always cause changes in parents–children relationships and for some problems with parental responsibility and parental rights to arise after divorce. The lecture allowed the audience to compare the approach of the legislator and the jurisprudence to the issue of the child’s best interest in divorce proceedings in various countries. In fact, many countries have decided to regulate this issue differently. The speech was complemented by reference to statistical data, which made it possible to see these regulations in practice.

Another topic that the participants and speakers had to deal with was parental authority and parental responsibility. This issue was discussed by *Professor Marek Andrzejewski* from the Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, who claimed that the debate between ‘parental authority’ and ‘parental responsibility’ is not only one about words. According to the professor, the issue of the concept of parental authority and parental responsibility is a particularly prominent one in the perception of parent–child relations in general. The very meaning of ‘parental authority’ as authority has negative associations and no positive connotations; it determines a relationship of dependence and places the parties to the relationship in an unequal position. The discourse on the renaming of this institution also raises the question of the origins of both names. The speaker thoroughly presented the democratic as well as authoritarian roots of each name.

The other perspective on parental responsibility was held by *Dr. Michał Poniatowski* from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, whose speech was entitled ‘Content of the Right to Parental Responsibility in the Case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.’ His presentation was not about the legislation of a specific individual country but about the international view in judiciary of European Court of Human Rights. The speaker emphasized the role of the family as a value in society and pointed out that family rights are often linked to other rights and responsibilities. Because parental responsibility is a universal topic considered not only in Central Europe but on the other parts of the globe, it must be viewed from a wider perspective. In presenting the achievements of the European Court of Human Rights in the field in question, Dr. Poniatowski chose to distinguish several aspects, such as the axiological aspect, as subjective or objective. This division allowed for a detailed analysis of the issue, attempting to answer the research needs of this institution through the abovementioned wider

scope. In this way, it will be possible to benefit from the achievements of other countries or, conversely, to promote the achievements of their own country in the international arena. The European Court of Human Rights, when ruling on matters of parental responsibility, should also apply the division mentioned by the speaker, precisely because of the differences in the understanding of these institutions also on axiological ground. At the end of his speech, Dr. Poniatowski invited the audience to read more about this topic in his monograph, which is part of a publication.

The last speaker, Vice Director of Institute of Justice *Professor Paweł Sobczyk*, gave a speech about the constitutional foundations of protection and care for the family and parenting and he also spoke about their importance for parental responsibility. The speaker presented the axiological aspect of the protection of parenthood and maternity as well as marriage in the context of the Polish Constitution. Even though the family is protected under Polish law, and many regulations state this, the most urgent problem is the lack of a definition of the family; therefore, the problem arises of what should really be protected by the state. Beyond protection, the state should also care about parenthood, motherhood, and family. The fact the constitutional legislator made use of two different terms—protection and care—indicating the intention to establish the separation of tasks and to set the sphere of activities apart for different state bodies.. As a constitutional expert, the professor explained what can be understood by protection and care. The purpose of this protection and care is absolutely connected to the aim of the conference itself and the project in general.

■ 3.3. Closing remarks

After both panels, a lively discussion was initiated, referring to the topics and issues raised by the speakers during the conference. Experts from various scientific centers expressed their support for the legislative changes proposed by speakers. During the discussion, Professor Andrzejewski's speech, which touched on the meaning of parental authority and parental responsibility, was widely commented upon. The experts expressed the opinion that parental authority does have a negative connotation, and proposed the term 'parental care.' This term is being used in Croatia and Slovenia and better describes this institution.

The discourse also moved beyond the European area to the American legal arena, discussing the perception in American law, by which a child committing a crime is considered the parents' failure and criminal responsibility.

At the end of the international scientific conference 'Content of the right to parental responsibility in the legal orders of Central and Eastern Europe – Selected Problems,' Professor Paweł Sobczyk, Vice Director of the Institute of Justice, thanked all conference participants for their participation in the meeting and in discussions. Special thanks were addressed to Dr. Katarzyna Zombory and Professor János Ede Szilágyi for the idea underlying this project and their cooperation

in organizing this event. The Vice Director expressed hope for further work on joint projects.

4. Summary

The two days of conference in Poland were only a prelude to the implementation of scientific research in selected areas of the science of law, which are research hotspots from the perspective of the challenges of a democratic state of law within the framework of the Central European Professors' Network.

The presented papers will serve to derive interesting conclusions, which will be a part of monographs containing ready-made legislative guidelines of selected areas for state governments, allowing to preserve sovereignty and integrity and, at the same time, fulfill the standard of a democratic legal state.