

RAPORT of the scientific activities of the Polish Section of the International Criminal Law Association, 2022/2023

In 2022 (since June) and the beginning of 2023 the Polish section of AIDP was active in many domains. By the end of 2022 the preparation of the Polish report as part of a questionnaire for the “Traditional Criminal Law Categories and AI: Crisis or Palingenesis?” AIDP report (the main author of which is to be Prof. Lorenzo Picotti), was accomplished and all four sections of the report sent to the Rapporteurs. Professor Sławomir Steinborn, member of the Executive Board of the Polish section, took part in the preparatory colloquium for the Section II of the report that took place in Buenos Aires on 28-31 March 2023.

Another direction of the Polish section's activities was to disseminate knowledge about the existence and activities of the Polish section of the International Criminal Law Association and to encourage people to join the section. In 2023, since January, the Polish section was active on social forums, disseminating news about events in the field of criminal law, in particular international criminal law and the war in Ukraine (see: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/552961839421243>).

In 2022 (since February 2022) the Polish section of AIDP was active in the field of research and analysis conducted as regards crimes of international law committed in result of the aggression of Russia on Ukraine.

On 19 May 2023 an international conference was organised entitled: “Bringing justice for Ukraine. Crime of Aggression, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity Genocide”, which was organized jointly by Polish and Ukrainian Sections of AIDP, Project Sunflowers and the EU Project Pravo-Justice. During the conference papers were presented by distinguished guests: practitioners, judges, prosecutors, professors of criminal law and international law. Ukrainian lawyers presented an update on the status of ongoing criminal trials in Ukraine for war crimes and crimes against humanity (about 70,000 cases have already been opened). In addition, there was an opportunity for discussion, as well as a chance to learn about the current status of work on the proposal to establish a special tribunal for crimes of aggression. The conference also provided an opportunity to exchange views and interact with lawyers from Ukraine, who have to solve on an ongoing basis a myriad of problems concerning the application of criminal law in the current situation.

One of the most important areas of activities in this area of research is the cooperation of the Polish section of the AIDP in the „Project Sunflowers” ([Home Page \(projectsunflowers.org\)](http://projectsunflowers.org)). This project, established as cooperation among numerous organisations is designed to be complementary to the activities of state authorities or any international courts established to prosecute and adjudicate war crimes, a war against humanity, genocide, aggression, or other serious human rights violations connected to the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. This project is complementary to the activities of state authorities or any international courts established to prosecute and adjudicate war crimes, war against humanity, genocide, aggression, or other serious human rights violations connected to the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. Thanks to this cooperation a network of lawyers was established, who collect the information on evidence and harm suffered as a result of crimes committed in Ukraine from the refugees, protecting their confidentiality. On the 19th of May 2023 the launching of the digital application serving to collect information on crimes committed in Ukraine and damages suffered, was announced during the conference. The digital databank with such information was now available for all the victims of the Russian aggression. It can now serve as a potential source of information for criminal proceedings and for the preservation of the historical truth.

In the frames of the cooperation with Project Sunflowers the Polish section of the AIPD co-organized four seminars, in cooperation with Pravo Justice, the biggest EU project supporting the judicial reform in Ukraine 19 May, 2022.:

- „Role of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court and reparations for victims of armed conflicts”: the key note speech was delivered by Franziska Eckelmans, Acting Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims. Legal officers Adeline Bedoucha, Cheikh Fall and Tars van Litsenborgh shared their experiences of working with victims of armed conflicts, 30 January 2023;
- “The Admissibility of Jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court” – where presentations were given by prof. Hanna Kuczyńska and prof. Karolina Wierczyńska, 28 February 2023;
- “Practical Aspects of Admissibility and Assessment of Evidence in War Crimes Trials”, with presentations given by prof. Bartłomiej Krzan, dr Dariusz Sielicki and prof. Klaus Hoffmann, on the 8th of March 2023;

- “Deportation of Ukrainians During the Russian-Ukrainian War”, with speeches presented by prof. Michael Bazyley, and dr Oksana Senatorova, on the 25th of April 2023.

With best regards

Hanna Kuczyńska, Secretary of the Executive Board of the Polish section of the AIDP