



A Visiting Lecturer's Perspective

My service with CEP has given me a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction which I am sure is a sensation common to all CEP instructors. Inevitably we cannot succeed in all goals, but to balance the disappointments, there are unexpected successes and rewards. Being on the scene of great changes in Europe has been an exciting experience. I always feel that I am gaining more than I give, and learning more than I teach.

As a legal professional, I have gained in two specific aspects. The first is in learning the law of the European Union and of other related European institutions, such as the Court of Human Rights, and the civil law system in general. I knew really very little of these when I came here in 1994. I have visited and attended sessions of all the major international tribunals in Europe, many national courts, and a number of law faculties in various nations. All this was an invaluable learning experience.

Secondly, I have come to look at the law with a broader perspective. As a practicing attorney and a jurist, I had been most concerned with the practical application of the law, and rather less with any more profound analysis. Teaching international, transnational, and comparative law for these past years has led me to question and to reexamine principles of our law, and to find a very considerable reward in this intellectual experience.

In both Ukraine and in Romania, I have continually been most impressed with the qualities of my CEP colleagues. It seems a common trait, that, in addition to sound professional qualifications, CEP fellows all have a sense of adventure, an ability to find discomforts humorous rather than troublesome, and a keen interest in this new world in which they have found themselves.

CEP is not only giving good academics to Eastern Europe, it is returning them to America with a broader appreciation of the world, to say nothing of a new language and sharpened teaching skills, all of which their contemporaries at home may well lack.

Finally, being here on the threshold of change, with law reforms constantly in progress and the even greater social developments in countries of Eastern Europe, is something of keen interest to any professional.

*Dr. Nicholas Sellers – Professor of Law
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*



A Country Director's Perspective

Lectures, presentations, discussions, workshops, student conferences, evaluations, special projects... seven years of exciting work with over 100 lecturers from such "exotic" places as Canada, Turkey or Hong Kong. And one fundamental question – what does

it mean for the local universities, for people teaching there, for the students?

I have always stressed that CEP lecturers bring three priceless elements to their host universities: their knowledge, lecture in a foreign language, and their work ethic. In one word – the human factor.

What CEP means to me...

If we were to evaluate the harm that the communist system did to science and learning we would probably have to stress the damage done to humans, their world values, and their humanity. People were convinced that it is irrelevant whether you do what you believe in, how you do it, whether you yourself are being treated in your activity as a person and whether you treat others as such. This was true for universities as well. Teachers were asked to instruct not teach; students were to memorize not learn; exams were for grading not for checking knowledge, not to mention ability to think critically; teachers were supposed to demand of students without sharing their knowledge with them.

Trying to assess the success/failure factor of CEP, I see its greatest achievement in the human factor which CEP lecturers have donated to their students and colleagues at universities. The fact of sharing experience, helping prepare a presentation, bringing back belief in honesty of scholarly research and writing, openness to questions and critique regardless of which side of the desk you are on, are values which cannot be measured in measurable variables. CEP students leave their classrooms as different people – not necessarily better but different. They have acquired confidence, they are much more open to others, they are not afraid to take up challenges. They are ready to face the challenges of the changing society in their countries. And there can be no better reward for the great work being done by our lecturers, than a former CEP student being accepted as a faculty member (or indeed as a CEP Eastern Scholar) without additional study at a "Western" institution.

Jakub Basista – Country Director, CEP Poland

CEP PROGRAMS

The Visiting Lecturer Program places Western scholars for at least one academic year in positions at universities across the region. There they teach, supervise research, initiate outreach activities and serve as a resource for the host university and department.

The Eastern Scholar Program identifies talented and motivated scholars from the region who have been trained at universities in the West and are interested in working permanently in their home countries as full time academics. CEP assists these scholars by providing financial, program and institutional assistance for up to two academic years.



An Eastern Scholar's Perspective

When I joined CEP, my images of the programme were rather nebulous. Yet, I soon discovered that CEP has many charms. The program is much more than mere support for young academics, it is a regional informal network helping young scholars, and students in this flow of information provides valuable information on educational support schemes, opportunities to study abroad, and other related programs.

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