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**Interview with Anastasiia Koziak**  
**Ukrainian student of the Civil Law Summer School 2022**

**Coming back to your participation in the Summer school of the Civil Law Foundation, how would you describe the experience you have lived this summer?**

Participating in the Summer school of the Civil Law Foundation was one of my academic highlights of this summer. It was an enriching experience in terms of new legal knowledge in various areas of international law, both familiar and substantially new to me. The Summer School brought together students, professionals and professors from different jurisdictions, creating a friendly international environment in our classes. I am grateful to the Foundation for giving me the opportunity to learn from renowned professors and eminent jurists from France and around the world.

**Why is civil law important to you?**

Coming from a continental law jurisdiction myself, I am more familiar with the legal concepts and methods inherent to this system. However, I think it is important for any law student to broaden his or her horizons beyond his or her own legal system to learn about the best practices and approaches to law around the world. That is why, at the Summer School, it was interesting for me to examine the foundations of continental legal culture from a comparative perspective with common law systems.

**What was the thing you enjoyed the most at the Summer School? What was the most challenging thing you experienced there?**

The courses that interested me the most personally were the European and international contract law and the course on international dispute settlement. The professors were outstanding. They shared a lot of knowledge and helped me supplement my own on these subjects. The challenge of this program was the final exam, which I am glad to have passed to consolidate the knowledge acquired throughout the program.

**Could you describe the impact of the war in Ukraine on your studies and more generally on the legal profession?**

The Russian war in Ukraine had a devastating impact on the higher education system of Ukraine. Indeed, a lot of universities have been destroyed. Despite this, my university, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, has managed to continue teaching in a digital format. In addition, the Erasmus+ program at the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, offered me the opportunity to continue my studies in a safe environment. On the other hand, the Ukrainian legal market has experienced a significant decline and many practitioners have been forced to seek job opportunities abroad.

**What kind of legal cooperation would your country need after the war?**

After the war, strong international legal cooperation will be needed for the reconstruction of Ukraine. It will be important to set priorities for the reconstruction of critical infrastructure related to the basic needs of the population. Within the framework of reconstruction in the broadest sense, the harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with that of the EU is necessary to make Ukraine a full member of the European Union.