

DEMOCRACY AND LAW
IN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
AND IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PREFACE

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ON BEHALF of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), I am glad to preface this issue of the *Central and Eastern European Legal Studies*, which comprises the proceedings of the Conference which was organized in Budapest on May 10-11, 2018 by the EPLO in collaboration with the International and Regional Studies Institute of the University of Szeged, Faculty of Law, Europe Direct Szeged, on the theme “Democracy and Law in European Integration and in International Relations”. I wish to thank H.E. the Minister of Justice of Hungary, Professor László Trócsányi, as well as all speakers and participants to this Conference for their input in this joint effort of these two institutions to elaborate on such a topical but also classic value: Democracy.

The European Public Law Organization is an international organization aiming to enhance and disseminate knowledge in the area of public law *lato sensu*, including but not limited to *inter alia* national, comparative and European public law, human rights law, law in general, governance, public policies, and the promotion of European values through public law for a better generation of law-

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yers and democratic institutions in a dialogue of civilizations worldwide.

The EPLO fulfils this aim by, among others, advancing cooperation with institutions having the same vision for law in Europe and worldwide. And it is in this framework that the EPLO signed a cooperation agreement on October 16, 2017 with the University of Szeged, which extends from the organization of scientific conferences to academic cooperation and publishing initiatives.

In fact, this issue of the *Central and Eastern European Legal Studies* is the realization of two of the most significant common aims shared by the European Public Law Organization and the University of Szeged: creation of knowledge and its dissemination, among others, through publishing activities.

The knowledge created during this two-day International Conference puts even more emphasis on the advancement of democratic institutions worldwide, one of the aims the EPLO pursues. Democracy, a concept born and developed in Ancient Greece, is today of paramount importance in view of the European integration. And this is what the reports presented during this Conference demonstrated, by dealing with themes such as “Democracy and Constitutionalism”, “Democracy and European Integration”, “Democracy and Human Rights”, “Democratic Principles in Constitutional Law and Other Fields of Law”, “Democracy and International Law and Relations” and “The Culture of Democracy”.

The papers published in this issue of the *Central and Eastern European Legal Studies* represent a significant part of the discussion and exchange of ideas that was carried out during the Conference.

I ardently hope that this publication will constitute useful material for the advancement of democratic values not only on the European but also on the global level.