



INSTITUTE OF
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RELATIONS



EUROPA-
INSTITUT
Saarland University

EU-China Summer School

REPORT 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Europa-Institut (EI), Law department, of Saarland University, Germany, the European Center of Economic and Financial Law (ECEFIL) of Panteion University, Athens, Greece, the Institute of International Relations (I.I.R), Panteion University, Athens, Greece, the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Berlin/Nice, Germany/France and Anargyrios and Korgialenios School of Spetses (AKSS), Spetses, Greece organized for a third year the EU – China Summer School with the topic "China and the EU as Partners – Law, Politics, Economics". This year the three week course program started in Athens, the capital of Greece (one week) and moved on to the island of Spetses very close to Athens (two weeks).

In 2015 program 18 students from six Chinese universities took part in this summer school:

- two students from East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST) in Shanghai,
- three students from Fudan University in Shanghai,
- two students from East China University of Political Science and Law,
- eight students from Yunnan University,
- one student from the Central University of Finance and Economic in Beijing,
- one student from Jiatong University in Shanghai, and
- one students from Yunnan University (private participation).

Ms He Yulin also participated as accompanying person.

All the courses were held in English and were offered by outstanding Professors from the Europa-Institut, European Center of Economic and Financial Law, Centre International de Formation Européenne, Law School of Athens – National University

of Athens, and the Hellenic Open University. The Professors not only gave lectures on European affairs but also shared their practical experience and discussed the topics with the students.

As the name of the summer school suggests, participants had to follow a series of lectures regarding the European Union. The interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the legal, political and economic aspects of the European Union; as well as the relationship between the EU and China, which has become more important over the last decades. Moreover, this year curriculum was enhanced with a series of lectures on European culture and history with emphasis on the Hellenic heritage. These lessons helped the participants become familiar with western culture and customs. At the end of this summer school, the participants had gained knowledge on these different fields of European Integration. Furthermore the summer school gave the participants the opportunity to become acquainted with different cultures and with different scientific approaches when analyzing European Integration.

The students were accommodated in double occupancy rooms:

- at Athens Cypria hotel situated in the historical center of Athens, during their first week, and
- at the Anargyrios and Korgialenios School of Spetses at Spetses Island (AKSS) with full board.

The rooms were simple and clean with Wi-Fi connections.

During the courses in Athens the lectures were held at the premises of the Institute of International Relations in the district of Plakas under the rock of Acropolis, while on the island of Spetses the lessons were held in the premises of AKSS. Also in AKSS premises the students had a study room with internet connection and Wi-Fi, and sporting grounds for basketball and football – and a beautiful beach with crystal water for swimming and water sports.

LECTURES

First week in Athens

Considering that the majority of the students were undergraduates, and the fact that most of them did not have a strong legal background, the first lecture of the Summer School that was given by Dr. Funda Tekin (CIFE) was on the subject of “The history of European integration”. In her lecture, Prof. Tekin introduced some general concepts of the European Union which were then specialized and developed in depth by the rest of the Professors during their lectures. Specifically, Prof. Tekin through interactive discussion (multiple choice game with questions) introduced the students to the historic events of the European integration, explaining the creation of the European Economic Community after the Second World War, and the reasons for the continuous enlargement and integration processes of the now European Union. In general, Prof. Tekin’s lecture gave the students a general picture of the EU, and built a foundation for the lectures to come.

In light of the legal and economic perspective of the summer school, in most lectures, these aspects were combined and appeared together. However, there was a two-day lecture purely focused on the economy: “The economics of European Integration” that was provided by Prof. Tasos Mastrogiannis (Panteion University of Athens). The first lecture introduced the students to European Integration from the economic perspective, and the second lecture gave emphasis on how the EU has been economically influenced by its integration.

The next lecture was provided by Dr. Michael Meimeth (CIFE) on the topic of “The EU in international politics – What kind of an actor?” This lecture introduced the students to the external relation policy of the EU, the role of the EU in the political sphere as an international actor and how this role does interact with EU’s internal structure and purpose.

Then followed Professor Stephanou (ECEFI) who gave a short afternoon lecture focused on the structure and process of the EU. He gave lectures on the topic of “The EU institutional and decision-making system”. In his lecture, Prof. Stephanou introduced the students to the institutions of the EU and illustrated how they operate in the EU system (tasks and powers of the institutions). He also presented two ways of classifying various EU major institutions/bodies (European Council, European Parliament, Council, European Commission, European Central Bank, and the various judicial and consultative bodies).

Second and third week on Spetses Island

The second week started with the lectures of Prof. Harry Papatiriu (IIR) on “Comparing the EU with Asian Integration Processes”, and “A tripolar world: EU-China-USA”. Prof. Papatiriu who regularly visits China to give lectures at several Chinese universities (e.g. East China Normal University), emphasized on the comparison between the Eastern and the Western integration processes. Moreover, he gave a small lecture on “The modern Greek state and foreign interference” in order give an example on how external influences affect a state.

The next lectures of the week were presented by Prof. Dr. Christina Livada (Law School of Athens). Prof. Livada’s first lecture was on “Consumer protection in the EU” and focused on Article 169 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), on how the consumers must be protected under this article in the EU financial system, as well as the rules of reasonable lending and consumer protection.

Then the next two days, Prof. Livada (replacing Prof. Christos Gortsos -both EI and ECEFIL- who due to unforeseen circumstances had a last minute cancelation). offered two lectures on: “The European Economic and Monetary Union” and “The European Banking Union”. In the beginning of her lectures, she reviewed some

important notions of the EU, and emphasized on the most interested point: “although the EU in many ways acts like a country, it is not one”. Then Prof. Livada introduced the European Economic and Monetary Union to the students helping them to become familiar with concepts or terms such as Euro zone, European Central Bank (ECB), and the Euro group. She developed her lectures step by step using audiovisual sources and focused on the European banking system in the second day of her lectures by analyzing the current euro crisis, and most importantly the new developments taken by the EU to resolve this crisis and prevent it in the future.

The third week started with the lectures on “The Single European Market” and “The market economy and public services”, which were offered by Prof. Maria Meng-Papantoni (both EI and ECEFIL). The lectures addressed the European Single Market and emphasized on the exceptions to World Trade Law and also to the law in regard to Public Services. She also made some introduction to Company Law first, and then compared the public services in both the EU and in China.

As the overall topic of this summer school was “China and Europe as partners”, the students were provided with courses that illustrated this partnership both from the political and economic side. More specifically, Prof. Werner Meng (EI) gave lectures on “EU as a trading partner” and “EU as an investment partner”. In the beginning of his lectures, Prof. Meng presented statistics on global trade, and illustrated why Greece, among all the EU member states, had a special status, in the trade between China and EU since geographically Greece is the first stop by ship where all the goods from China to the EU are transported. This close partnership surprised the students but explained the special relationship. Moreover, Prof. Meng gave the students a general outline of World Trade Law, namely what are the rules in international trade and how to solve a trade dispute at the international level, and finally addressed the issues of International Investment Law and gave an introduction to some general rules and the ICSID Convention.

To sum up the participants in the end of the Summer School were provided with lectures with different key points: Law, Economics, History and Culture. This combination of lectures along with the different approached of their Professors not only provided the students with specific knowledge, but also broadened their horizons in the field of the social science as a whole broadening the students' way of thinking and studying.

The organizers of the summer school provided each student with a personal file containing the presentations of the Professors or summaries of their lectures. After the lectures all presentations and any additional material were uploaded to ECEFIL website on the special section for the EU-China Summer School and thus they were available to all participants.

For a second year, at the end of the EU-China Summer School the voluntary final examination took place. Participants at the end of this cycle could choose to be awarded with a just a certificate of attendance or a certificate of successful attendance after passing the voluntary examination. The innovation of this year was the award of 4 ECTS grades to the students who would pass the final examinations. For one more year all participants chose to give the voluntary exams, and in order to assist them in their study, we organized a recap session and the end of every week.

In the final (multiple choice) exam all participants succeeded and in the conclusion ceremony all received congratulations from their Professors and the certificate of successful attendance accompanied by a farewell gift.

Excursions and activities during the free time

As the summer school was situated in one of the European countries with the oldest culture, it was essential to make some excursions to the most famous cultural sites of Greece.

During the participants' stay in Athens

As the first week of the courses took place in Athens, the students had the opportunity to get more acquaintance not only with Athens as the capital of Greece, which is considered to be the place where European culture and democracy was firstly introduced, but also with the social and everyday life of its people. Thus all Sunday morning upon the arrival of the students and almost every afternoon after the lectures the students had the opportunity to have fieldtrips in Athens.

The first stop on Sunday morning was the visit to the Greek Parliament, where was the residence of the former King of Greece. During this visit the students had the opportunity to visit the Plenary of the Greek Parliament and get a lecture on Modern Greece by Dr. Christos Christidis (Historian of the Hellenic Open University). Then followed a visit to the museum, and the national gardens, and had a lovely lunch inside Zappeion.

The next stop was the Grand Panathenaic Stadium, which was originally built in the 4th century BC as a venue for the Panathenaic athletic contests. It's said that at Hadrian's inauguration in AD 120, 1000 wild animals were sacrificed in the arena. Later, the seats were rebuilt in Pentelic marble by Herodes Atticus, and after hundreds of years of disuse, the stadium was completely restored in 1895 by wealthy Greek benefactor Georgios Averof to host the first modern Olympic Games the following year.

Then the participants visited Acropolis archeological site, which is a famous ancient citadel located on a hill above Athens. During the visit participants had also the

opportunity to visit the Ancient Theater of Dionysus, which is located in the beginning of the hill, and after the archeological site the participants visited the Acropolis Museum. In the new Acropolis museum, participants had the opportunity to view the most important art crafts, which were found on the “sacred rock” (Acropolis) and precious antiques through the translucent floors of the Museum as the latter is supported by tall pillars. The newly build museum is considered to be a masterpiece itself as it uses daylight as its main source of illumination, so that the sculptures can be seen exactly as they first were under the Attic sun. The first acquaintance of the participants with Greek culture finished with a walk in the district of Plaka, which is the oldest part of the city of Athens.

The next day participants visited Hadrian’s Arch and the Temple of Olympus Zeus. Hadrian was a Roman Emperor who had a great affection for Athens and erected the Arch in AD 132 probably to commemorate the consecration of the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The Arch is the dividing point between the ancient and Roman city. The northwest frieze reads, ‘This is Athens, the Ancient city of Theseus’, while the southeast frieze states, ‘This is the city of Hadrian, and not of Theseus’.

The last stop in Athens was the National Archaeological Museum of Athens, which is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art. It was founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, thus displaying their historical, cultural and artistic value 11.000 exhibits. The museum is housed in an imposing neoclassical building of the end of the nineteenth century, which was designed by L. Lange and remodelled by Ernst Ziller. The vast exhibition space - numerous galleries on each floor accounting for a total of 8,000 square metres - house five large permanent collections: the Prehistoric Collection, the Sculptures Collection, the Vase and Minor Objects Collection, the Stathatos Collection, and the only Egyptian and Near Eastern Antiquities Collection.

Last but not least, during the participants visit to the National Archaeological Museum, they had the chance to get a lecture on “Greek Media in Europe and China”, by the Journalist George Tzokopoulos.

During the participants stay on the island of Spetses

On the way to Spetses Island the participants had a stop at Epidavros, where the Asclepieion the most important ancient healing center of the Classical world is situated. There participants were rather impressed by the ancient theatre where the acoustic is incredible and even nowadays plays are on. Then participants visited the museum and the relics of the center.

Another excursion was organized in the island of Hydra, which is half an hour by boat from Spetses Island. In Hydra the participants visited the naval museum and had the chance to have lunch in a traditional Greek restaurant and visit the shops. The Donkeys are the only means of transportation on the island and it is rather well known for it.

Then followed the excursion to Mycenae and Nafplio. Mycenae is the ancient Greek Palace of King Agamemnon, with the Lion Gate which is the symbol of Mycenaean ruler’s power. There the participants visited the museum which hosts all antiquates founded during the excavation, the most famous of which is the treasure of the King. Then followed a visit to Nafplio, a seaport town and the first capital of the Hellenic Republic. After lunch all participants visited the castle of Palamidis which lies above the city and was built by the Venetians. The excursion ended with the participants’ descend of the 1000 thousand steps of the castle which lead to the entrance of the city of Nafplio.

Upon request from the participants, who were rather interested in culture and customs, a supplementary excursion was organized to go around Spetses Island by boat and end

up in the old harbor of Spetses Island. In the old harbor of Spetses during the war of Greek Independence a famous battleship took place. Also on the seaside lie the bronze sculptures made by the Modern Greek artist Natalia Mela. The sculptures have the shape of animals and one of them has the shape of a Mermaid.

Last but not least, during their stay at Anargyrios and Korgialenios School the students were able to visit the exhibition of the founder of the School “Anargyros”. On the ground floor of one of AKSS buildings, the students could see personal items of the founder and photographs from the first students of the school, as well as the instruments they used for physics, and gymnastics. They also visited the library and the piano room, where the students played and sing.

Moreover, participants in their free time, especially on Sunday as the free day, went to the sea to swim, lay on the beach to enjoy the sunshine, and visited to the center of the island to shop. The beach near the AKSS School was also a good place to watch the sunrise, so sometimes professors and students got up early to watch the sun rise from the sea. There was also time for a bike tour, so some students rented bikes and made a ride around the whole island and discovered the surroundings.

Finally, the program was closed with a wonderful last evening on Spetses Island, with dinner to a Greek restaurant. After spending the last day in Athens, mainly shopping, all participants went back to China, together with new knowledge, new impressions and new friends. All students gave the feedback that the summer school 2015 was successful since they enjoyed their stay and had the opportunity to broaden their horizons, not only from a professional point of view but also from their personal perspective.