The program:

6.30- 6.35 Opening and welcome to the second CEU Alumni Talks (by Emil Vargović, PolSci, ‘12)
6.35-6.55: Endemic Restrictions to International Arbitration in Central and Eastern Europe (by Davor Babić, IBL LL.M. ’99)
6.55-7.15: Opinions Matter - An Insider’s View of Politheor’s Hands-on Approach to Public Policy (by Mario Munta, DPP, ’14)
7.15-7.35: Constitutional Court and Referendum in Croatia (by Đorđe Gardašević, HR LL.M., ’00)
7.35-7.55: Teamwork and Active Individuals - How to Transform the Local Students Debate into a Recognized International Conference Model European Union Zagreb 2015? (by Tomislav Leko, IRES,’14)
7.55-8.00: Closing remarks (by Emil Vargović)

Talks and Speakers (in alphabetical order)

SPEAKER: Davor Babić
TITLE: Endemic Restrictions to International Arbitration in Central and Eastern Europe

SUMMARY:
Over the past two decades, former socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe have fundamentally reformed their legal systems to create a legal environment needed to support a transition from a centrally planned to a market based economy. A part of this process was a systemic overhaul of arbitration law. Many CEE countries have reformed their arbitration laws during 1990’s and 2000’s by adopting new arbitration statutes largely based on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration of 1985. In sharp contrast to the socialist legal tradition, which generally allowed private arbitration only in international transactions, and even then only under certain restrictive conditions, new arbitration laws adopt a pro-arbitration policy and generally favor enforcement of arbitration agreements. And yet, like in many other areas of laws, influence of the earlier socialist legal order can still be felt in arbitration law in Central and Eastern Europe even a quarter of a century after the fall of the Berlin wall. Many Eastern European countries still impose some restrictions on arbitration which feature as atavisms from the era of socialism. It is submitted that these restrictions are flawed as a matter of policy and that many of them are inconsistent with the 1958 New York Arbitration Convention of 1958 or EU laws on free movement of services.

CV:
Davor Babić is associate professor of Private International Law at the Faculty of Law (University of Zagreb). He studied law at the University of Zagreb (LL.B, Ph.D.), Asser Institute in the Hague (Diploma in International Commercial Law) and at the Central European University in Budapest (LL.M. in Intl Business Law, LEGS 1999). Professor Babić has published on a wide range of topics relating to private international law, international commercial law and arbitration and ADR. He has sat in over 40 commercial arbitrations as chair, sole arbitrator or co-arbitrator under various institutional and ad hoc arbitration rules (including ICC Rules, LCIA Rules, UNCITRAL Rules, Vienna International Arbitration
Centre) and in various seats of arbitration (including London, Paris, Vienna, Munich and Frankfurt). He also acted as a mediator in commercial arbitrations and as a member of dispute adjudication boards under FIDIC construction contracts. He regularly advises businesses and attorneys on private international law, international commercial law, arbitration, ADR and international investment law. Profesor Babić was head of the working group for negotiations on Croatia's accession to the EU. He is a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Arbitration and ADR.

LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/pub/davor-babic/12/b29/809

---

SPEAKER: Đorđe Gardašević
TITLE: Constitutional Court and Referendum in Croatia

SUMMARY:
In recent years, Croatian citizens have tried to initiate several state referendums. These notable recourses to direct democracy have addressed various legal, political and social issues (including, for example, the constitutional definition of marriage, reform of the electoral system, ban on the “outsourcing” of public sector and reform of the referendum procedure itself). These events not only unveiled deeply embedded confrontations between social actors and state institutions, but also allowed for extremely important constitutional developments. The principal aim of the lecture is to give an insight into legal interpretations given by the Constitutional Court which, attempting to balance between competing interests has started to fill in legal gaps in legal regulation of referendum in Croatia.

CV:
Đorđe Gardašević is an Assistant Professor at the Constitutional Law Department of the Zagreb Law Faculty, University of Zagreb (Croatia). He received his LL.B. degree at the Zagreb Law Faculty in 1998, LLM. degree in comparative constitutional law with specialization in human rights at the Central European University (Budapest) in 2000 and S.J.D. degree at the Zagreb Law Faculty in 2010. The title of his master thesis was “The Independence and Impartiality of Courts – Article 6 of the European Convention for Human Rights” and the title of his doctoral thesis was “Restrictions of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in States of Emergency”. He participated, among other events, at the 7th and 9th World Congresses of the International Association for Constitutional Law (Athens, 2007, Oslo 2014), at the 22nd and 23rd Congresses of the International Political Science Association – IPSA (Madrid, 2012, Montreal, 2014), at conferences organized by the European Public Law Organization (Komotini, 2007), the Central European Political Science Association (Bratislava, 2006), the Inter-University Center (Dubrovnik, 2000–2013) and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He is a member of the Croatian Association for Constitutional Law, International Political Science Association (IPSA) and American Political Science Association (APSA).

LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/pub/djordje-gardasevic/6/ab1/4b8

---

SPEAKER: Tomislav Leko
TITLE: Teamwork and Active Individuals - How to Transform the Local Students Debate into a Recognized International Conference Model European Union Zagreb 2015?

SUMMARY:
MEUZ is a simulation of the work of the EU institutions - the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers of the EU as well as of the work of lobbyists and journalists. The simulation uses exact legal procedures as laid down in the treaties (ordinary legislative procedure) and mirrors the decision-making
process in the EU, adapted to a four-day simulation. Which streams of planning are needed to make this conference happen? How to assemble, coordinate and motivate volunteers to give their best for the cause of making a project “even bigger” than it should be? How to coordinate the participants from 12 different countries? What is the content of the simulation and can its outcomes be used after the conference? How to involve real decision-makers in the course of the simulation? These and more questions will be answered during the CEU Talks.

CV:
Tomislav Leko graduated from the Department of International Relations and European Studies at CEU in 2014. Before CEU, he obtained his undergraduate degree in Political Science at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb (Croatia) and during the academic year 2012/13 he was an exchange student at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn in Germany. While studying he was engaged in various activities: from civil society initiatives, through summer and winter schools, to various conferences. Last two years he is the organizer of the Model European Union Zagreb conference, most recently in the role of a Deputy-Director General of MEUZ 2015. His research interest lies in the EU affairs domain, especially in areas of foreign policy, energy security and international security. Currently Tomislav is working at the European Parliament Information Office in Croatia as a trainee. Last year he had the opportunity to work for one month in Brussels for the Croatian Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Andrej Plenković. LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/toleko

SPEAKER: Mario Munta
TITLE: Opinions Matter - An Insider’s View of Politheor’s Hands-on Approach to Public Policy

SUMMARY:
Although considered valuable sources of innovation and information, young policy experts rarely receive policy-makers’ attention they deserve. Politheor is a CEU alumni-led policy platform intended to flock together talented policy experts striving to exert impact on European, national and local policies in the general interest. At Politheor, giving voice to such expertise includes a two-step tactics: first, building writing capacity so young leaders could articulate their policy ideas and opinions well via op-eds, and second, gaining public attention through proper media coverage. Politheor strongly endorses op-eds – an appealing but often falsely employed form of conveying policy ideas. How does one reconcile objective policy knowledge with opinions in op-eds?

CV:
Mario Munta graduated from the Department of Public Policy at CEU in 2014. He recently enrolled in CEU’s Doctoral program in Public Policy. His policy foci and expertise lie in social policy, labour market policies and climate policy. Mario has, hitherto, worked on promoting the living wage concept (WageIndicator.org), educating and empowering high-school students in local politics (Friedrich Ebert Foundation), reviewing European Union’s climate action (GR:een), and analyzing work-life balance policies in Croatia (Faculty of Political Science Zagreb). Currently, he is co-editor of the EU section at Politheor – an EU policy platform, and Advisory Board member at ODRAZ – the leading sustainable development NGO in Croatia. LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/mmunta