RULES
Essay Competition for Young Scholars
"State Sovereignty in the Face of New Transnational Challenges"

§ 1. General Provisions.

1. The Rules of the Essay Competiton for Young Scholars "State Sovereignty in the Face of New Transnational Challenges" (hereinafter: **"Rules")** set forth the principles for the organization and conduct of the Essay Comptetiton "State Sovereignty in the Face of New Transnational Challenges" (hereinafter: "Competition").
2. The organizer of the Competitiom is the University of Łódź (hereinafter **"the University"** or **"the Organizer")**, with its registered office in Łódź, at ul. Prezydenta Gabriela Narutowicza 68, 90-136 Łódź.
3. The University of Łódź is the sponsor of the prizes. The prizes will be funded from funds provided to the university by the International Visegrad Fund.
4. The Comptetition will be announced on the Organizer's website: https://revivalofsovereignty.pl, as well as on the Facebook page of the European Center for Constitutional Studies at the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Łódź. The Organizer reserves the right to provide additional written notification, including via email, to educational institutions of its choosing.
5. All communication, including the submission of any comments or questions regarding the conduct of the Competition, shall take place electronically via the email address: ecbu@wpia.uni.lodz.pl, unless the Rules provide otherwise.
6. Participants in the Competition may be doctoral students and PhD holders from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia, provided that no more than 5 years have elapsed since they obtained their doctoral degree **(hereinafter: "Participants").**
7. The purpose of the Competition is:
a) To initiate and support research on contemporary approaches to sovereignty, in particular by encouraging young researchers to conduct in-depth theoretical and empirical analyses in this area.
b) To create a platform for the academic career development of doctoral students and researchers within five years of defending their doctoral dissertations by enabling them to present their research findings in an international setting.
c) To identify outstanding scholarly works characterized by a high level of substance, an original approach to the topic, and a contribution to the development of the contemporary debate on the role of sovereignty in a world of global interdependence.
d) To disseminate research findings by publishing the three winning essays and up to two honorable mentions as open-access *working papers*, following scientific editing.
e) Strengthening inter-institutional cooperation by involving representatives of partner institutions in the work of the evaluation panel and in the process of disseminating the competition's results.
f) Increasing the visibility of young researchers in academic and public spheres by promoting the competition and its results on social media and institutional channels.
8. The organizer does not provide educational materials to help participants prepare for the competition.
9. The organizer does not reimburse costs associated with participation in the competition, including the costs of preparing and submitting the competition entry.
10. The Competition is not a game of chance as defined by the Act of November 19, 2009, on Gambling.
11. These Rules and Regulations take effect on the date of their publication on the Organizer's website.
12. The official language of the Competiton is English only.

§ 2. Rules for Participation in the Contest

1. Eligible participants in the Contest are doctoral students and PhD holders from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia, provided that no more than 5 years have elapsed since they obtained

their doctoral degree .

2. The theme of the Competition entries is: “National Sovereignty in the Face of New Transnational Challenges”

3. Form and style of Competition entries:

a. The competition entry should take the form of an essay - an argumentative piece on the given topic, containing a thesis, justification, examples, and/or references to social and legal realities.
b. The text should not exceed 3,000 words (not including the bibliography).
c. Entries must be submitted in electronic DOC/DOCX format.
d. The text should be written in Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., with 1.5 line spacing and standard margins (2.5 cm).
e. The pages of the competition entry should be numbered.
f. The language of the competition entry is English.

4. Each Competition participant may submit only one entry.

5. The Competition entry must be created personally and independently by the Participant after the date of the Contest announcement. The Participant must hold full copyright to their contest entry. The contest entry may not infringe upon the rights, interests, or legal rights of third parties, violate public decency, or undermine the dignity of the legal advisor profession, nor may it be restricted or encumbered by such rights.

6. Conditions for Participation in the Competition – a Participant’s entry into the Competition is submitted
by:

1) submitting the contest entry by November 1, 2026, to the Organizer’s email address,
2) simultaneously sending to the Organizer’s email address, under penalty of exclusion from the Contest, hand-signed statements - Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 (hereinafter the “Statements”).

7. Entries from Participants who do not meet the requirements set forth in the Competition Rules or from Participants excluded from the Competition will not be evaluated and will not be considered for the awards and honors provided for in the Rules.

8. Only Participants who have met all the requirements set forth in the Rules may participate in the Competition. A violation of the provisions of the Rules constitutes grounds for a Participant’s exclusion from the Competition.

9. Communication between the Organizer and the Participant takes place via the Participant’s email address provided in the Participant’s declaration. Communication by telephone is also permitted, using the Participant’s contact phone number provided in the declaration.

§ 3. Contest Schedule.

1. The contest runs from July 6, 2026, to November 30, 2026, and will follow the schedule below:
   a) July 6, 2026, through November 1, 2026 – submission of contest entries,
   b) November 1, 2026, through November 14, 2026 – deliberations by the Competition Committee,
   c) November 15, 2026 – announcement of the contest results on the Organizer’s website and Facebook page.

2. The awards ceremony will take place remotely on a date specified by the Organizer. Participants will be notified of the ceremony date no later than 14 days before the scheduled event via the contest website and email.

3. The Organizer reserves the right to change the date of the awards and honors ceremony for reasons beyond its control or for other significant organizational reasons. In the event of a date change, participants will be notified immediately via email. A change in the date does not constitute grounds for filing a claim against the Organizer.

§ 4. Responsibilities of the Organizer.

1. The Organizer’s responsibilities include:

a) securing the budget for the Contest,
b) preparing the Contest Rules,
c) maintaining the Contest's documentation,
d) communicating with Participants,
e) coordinating the conduct of the Contest,
f) receiving and reviewing requests for exceptions to the Rules,
g) resolving disputes regarding the conduct of the Contest,
h) ensuring the proper conduct of the Contest;
i) promoting the concept of the Contest,
j) ensuring the proper conduct of the Contest,
k) other tasks specified in the Rules,

§ 5. The Competition Committee.

1. The Competition Committee consists of three members appointed by the Organizer from among the researchers participating in the project "Sovereignty: The Revival of Sovereignty in Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union," including one member who serves as Chair—a representative of the Organizer.
2. The Competition Committee's responsibilities include:
   a) evaluating the competition entries,
   b) determining the results of the Contest and selecting the winners who will take first, second, and third place, as well as any honorable mentions,
   c) announcing the results of the Contest,
   d) presenting awards to the winners
3. When selecting the best entries, as determined by the Competition Committee, the Committee will primarily consider:
   a) alignment with the contest theme,
   b) the clarity and accuracy of the thesis statement,
   c) originality of approach to the topic and independent thinking,
   d) linguistic and stylistic correctness,
   e) compliance with the formal requirements set forth in the rules.

§ 6. Rules for Conducting the Competition.

I. Evaluation of Competition Entries

1. From among the submitted entries, the Competition Committee appointed by the Organizer will select the best entries, as determined by the Competition Committee. The entries will be anonymized. The Competition Committee will not have access to the participants' personal data.
2. In selecting the best entries, the Competition Committee will be guided by the criteria set forth in § 5(3) of the Rules.
3. Competition entries that do not comply with the rules and requirements set forth in the Rules and Regulations will not be evaluated by the Competition Committee.
4. Failure to include with the contest entry a complete set of signed Statements, as referred to in § 2(6) (3) of the Rules, will prevent participation in the Competition.
5. The Competition Organizer reserves the right not to select any winners or honorees for the Competition, or to select a smaller number of them.

II. Contest Results and Announcement

1. The details of the winners and those receiving honorable mentions, along with their contest entries, will be posted on the Organizer's website and on its Facebook fan page.
2. Winners and honorable mentions will be notified by the Organizer via email or phone regarding the prize or honorable mention they have been awarded.

III. Prizes and Honorable Mentions

1. The organizer has set aside three cash prizes for the winners of the Competition, each prize amounting to 1,000 euros gross.
2. The cash prizes will be paid via bank transfer to the bank accounts specified by the winners within 30 days of the awards ceremony.
3. The Organizer reserves the right to publish the winning and honorable mention entries. Entries from other participants will not be published.

§ 7. Copyright

1. The Participant transfers, and the Organizer acquires free of charge from the Participant upon the awarding of a prize or honorable mention:
   a) the economic copyrights to exclusively dispose of and use any entry awarded or honored in the Contest, either as a whole or in its individual components (including creative contributions) ("Works"), without any territorial or temporal restrictions, along with the right to freely transfer them and make them available for use,
   b) granting permission to exercise derivative copyrights in the Works (including the right to create adaptations thereof), to make adaptations that do not constitute derivative works, to create works incorporating elements from all Works that do not constitute derivative works—by the Organizer or by third parties at its request, which also includes the right to further dispose of or use them (including the provision of services using the Works or the use of the Works by third parties for the purpose of providing such services)

2. The acquisition referred to in paragraph 1 applies to the scope and fields of exploitation covered by Article 50 of the Act on Copyright and Related Rights:
   a) with respect to fixation and reproduction—the permanent or temporary fixation or reproduction, in whole or in part, by any means and in any form, regardless of the technique, format, system, or standard, including storage in a computer's memory or in a network of computers, as well as in information technology or multimedia networks and systems, and the permanent or temporary fixation or reproduction of such recordings, including the making of copies thereof and any use of and disposal of such copies; the production of copies of a work using a specific technique, including printing, reprography, magnetic recording, scanning, and digital techniques;
   b) with respect to the distribution of the original or copies of the Works—the right to introduce into distribute, lend, or rent the original or copies of the Works;
   c) with respect to distribution other than as specified in point 2—public and non-public performance, use, exhibition, display, reproduction, transmission, storage, and broadcasting and rebroadcasting, regardless of the medium, format, system, or standard, as well as making the work publicly available in such a way that anyone may have access to it at a place and time of their choosing; in particular, the distribution of the work on the Internet and on closed networks (intranets); including through publication in the press, making the works available on the "Internet," as well as via webcasting, simulcasting, videocasting, and any other forms of Internet transmission, as well as distribution via telephone networks (fixed-line or mobile), in particular via: mobile phones (including WAP) and digital devices (e.g., set-top boxes, VOD, PPV, personal computers, and others);
   d) with respect to adapting, making any changes, translating into foreign languages, adapting, correcting, modifying, format changes, abridgments, and adaptations of the Works, including

changes to the layout or any other changes to the Works—in particular, changes to the placement and size of individual graphic elements comprising the Works—as well as the use of adaptations of the Works in the form of reworkings, fragmentation—even if such actions were to result in the loss of the individual character of the Works, excluding the possibility of using the artist's image contained in the Work to create another work;

e) in connection with the provision of services or use by third parties in connection with the provision of services, as well as applications related to artificial intelligence;
f) in the context of marketing (including promotion, advertising, sponsorship, sales promotion, self-promotion, and product placement), as well as for the designation, identification, or highlighting of products or services and other aspects of the Organizer's activities, and for informational, publication, educational, and training purposes;
g) for the purpose of applying for protection and exclusive use as a trademark or other distinguishing or identifying mark.

3. In connection with the Organizer's acquisition of copyright to an award-winning or honored contest entry, the Participant who created it agrees not to exercise moral rights to the Work in a manner that prevents or restricts its use by the Organizer.
4. Entries submitted to the Competition are not returnable, and the originals or copies on which they are recorded become the property of the Organizer upon receipt by the Organizer.

§ 8. Disputes. Disqualification from the Competition. Appeals. Any disputes regarding the Contest shall be resolved by the Organizer.

1. Matters not covered by these Rules shall be governed by these Rules.
2. The Organizer reserves the right not to select winners of the Competition.
3. Competition participants who violate these Rules may be disqualified from the Competition. Disqualification applies, in particular, to situations such as: the use of unauthorized aids, plagiarism, or unethical behavior. Decisions regarding disqualification are made by the Organizer or the Competition Committee.
4. Participants have the right to appeal the results of the Competition, the manner in which it was conducted, and any decision to exclude them from participation in the Competition.
5. An appeal must be filed with the Organizer no later than 7 days from the date the results of of the Competition.
6. The appeal must include a statement of reasons.
7. The Organizer will review the appeal within 7 days of receiving it. The Organizer's decision is final.
8. Communication regarding appeals is conducted via email.
9. Appeals submitted after the deadline or that do not include a statement of reasons will not be considered.

§ 9. Final Provisions

1. Participation in the Competition requires compliance with the Contest Rules.
2. The Organizer reserves the right to interpret the provisions of these Rules; all decisions made by the Organizer shall be binding and final.
3. In cases not provided for in these Rules, the Organizer shall decide.
4. By submitting an entry to the Competition, the participant declares and hereby confirms that the submitted entry was created by the participant independently and that no third parties hold any economic or moral copyrights to this entry.
5. Any questions or comments may be directed to the Organizer.
6. The rules governing the Competition are set forth exclusively in these Rules and Regulations. In matters not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the applicable provisions of Polish law shall apply, in particular the provisions of the Civil Code.
7. Any disputes arising from participation in the Competition will be resolved before the court having jurisdiction over the Organizer's registered office.

Appendix 1: Competition Participant's Statement Regarding the Transfer of economic copyrights to the Contest entry

In connection with my submission of my essay to the contest "State Sovereignty in the Face of New Transnational Challenges," I hereby declare that:

1) Upon receiving a prize or honorable mention, I hereby transfer, free of charge, to the Competition Organizer all economic copyrights to the entry (essay) I submitted to the Competition for the following fields of exploitation:

a) with respect to fixation and reproduction—the permanent or temporary fixation or reproduction, in whole or in part, by any means and in any form, regardless of the technique, format, system, or standard, including storage in a computer's memory or in a network of computers, as well as in information technology or multimedia networks and systems, and the permanent or temporary fixation or reproduction of such recordings, including the making of copies thereof and any use of and disposal of such copies; the production of copies of a work using a specific technique, including printing, reprography, magnetic recording, scanning, and digital techniques;

b) with respect to the distribution of the original or copies of the Works—the right to introduce into distribute, lend, or rent the original or copies of the Works;

c) with respect to distribution other than as specified in point 2—public and non-public performance, use, exhibition, display, reproduction, transmission, storage, and broadcasting and rebroadcasting, regardless of the medium, format, system, or standard, as well as making the work publicly available in such a way that anyone may have access to it at a place and time of their choosing; in particular, the distribution of the work on the Internet and on closed networks (intranets); including through publication in the press, making the works available on the "Internet," as well as via webcasting, simulcasting, videocasting, and any other forms of Internet transmission, as well as distribution via telephone networks (fixed-line or mobile), in particular via: mobile phones (including WAP) and digital devices (e.g., set-top boxes, VOD, PPV, personal computers, and others);

d) with respect to adapting, making any changes, translating into foreign languages, adapting, correcting, modifying, format changes, abridgments, and adaptations of the Works, including changes to the layout or any other changes to the Works—in particular, changes to the placement and size of individual graphic elements comprising the Works—as well as the use of adaptations of the Works in the form of reworkings, fragmentation—even if such actions were to result in the loss of the individual character of the Works, excluding the possibility of using the artist's image contained in the Work to create another work;

e) in connection with the provision of services or use by third parties in connection with the provision of services, as well as applications related to artificial intelligence;

f) in the context of marketing (including promotion, advertising, sponsorship, sales promotion, self-promotion, and product placement), as well as for the designation, identification, or highlighting of products or services and other aspects of the Organizer's activities, and for informational, publication, educational, and training purposes;

g) for the purpose of filing for protection and exclusive use as a trademark or other distinguishing or identifying mark.

2) I also transfer, free of charge, the right to authorize the exercise of derivative copyrights to the contest entry in the fields of exploitation indicated above, including the right to modify and adapt the work, as well as the right to create derivative works.

3) I declare that the contest entry I have submitted does not infringe on the rights of third parties and that I hold full copyright to it; in the event of an infringement of third-party rights, I bear sole liability toward those parties.

(signature, date, city)

Appendix 2: Declaration of a Competition Participant

organized by the University of Łódź (hereinafter referred to as the Organizer). 1.

Participant's Information:

a. first and last name:

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b. academic title:

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c. affiliation:

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d. email address and phone number

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2. I hereby declare that the above information is true and current.

3. I declare that I hold a doctoral degree or a doctorate (no more than 5 years have elapsed since I received my doctoral degree) from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, or Slovakia.

Pursuant to Article 13(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), hereinafter referred to as "GDPR," we hereby inform you that:

1. The controller of personal data is the University of Łódź, with its registered office in Łódź, at ul. Narutowicza 68, 90-136 Łódź.
2. In any case, you may contact the Data Protection Officer at the mailing address indicated above, with the note: Data Protection Officer, University of Łódź, or by email at:iod@uni.lodz.pl
3. Personal data, including: first name(s) and last name, email address, phone number, academic title, and affiliation, will be processed for the following purposes:
   - registration of participation, as well as the organization and conduct of the Competition
   - organizing the awards and honors ceremony (including a live stream on YouTube and Facebook on the European Center for Structural Research's account) organized by the Organizer using the Teams platform.
   - communicating with Participants regarding matters related to the Competition, documenting its proceedings, including, among other things, compiling a list of Participants and issuing certificates of participation;
   - receiving information about future scientific conferences and events at the email address provided in the application [...]

Personal data in the form of a likeness and first and last name will be used for the following

purposes:
   - promotional, educational, and science outreach purposes on social media platforms, i.e., on the University of Łódź's account, provided consent is given for the use of the likeness.
4. Personal data will be processed on the basis of:
   - Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR in conjunction with Articles 2 and 11 of the Act of July 20, 2018, on Higher Education and Science (as this is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller in connection with the mission of the higher education and science system in the areas of education, scientific activity, fostering civic attitudes, as well as participation in social development and the creation of an innovation-based economy);
   - Article 6(1)(b) of the GDPR (as this is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party or to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract);
   - Article 6(1)(c) of the GDPR (in connection with the requirements of laws and internal regulations in force at the University of Łódź);
   - Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR based on your consent to the processing of personal data (in the case of consent to the use of your image or to receiving information about future conferences and events).
5. Where the processing of personal data is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time without affecting the lawfulness of the processing carried out prior to the withdrawal of consent.
6. The recipients of your personal data may be entities authorized by law or entities to which the Controller has entrusted the processing of personal data under a contract. Your personal data (in the form of a recorded image) may also be processed by the providers of the YouTube service (Google LLC) and the Facebook service (Meta Platforms) at their data processing centers.
7. Personal data will be retained for the period necessary to achieve the purposes referred to in point 3, for the duration of the retention period for the Contest's financial and accounting records by the University of Łódź. In situations provided for by law, personal data may also be processed for the period necessary to establish and pursue any potential claims. If you consent to the use of your image or to receiving information, your personal data will be retained until you withdraw your consent.
8. You have the right to:
   1) access your personal data,
   2) to have your data corrected if it is inaccurate,
   3) to erasure, restriction of processing, and data portability—in cases provided for by law,
   4) to object to the processing of your data,
   5) to file a complaint with the supervisory authority, which is the President of the Personal Data Protection Office.
9. Providing your personal data is voluntary but necessary to achieve the purposes described in point 3.

(signature, date, city)